

# Political Clamor Expected To Be Loud, Continuous in Congress Session

## Wide Gap Between Farm, Retail Prices May Be Investigated

Washington—(U.P.)—Sen. Milton R. Young (R-N.D.) said today he may ask Congress to investigate the widening gap between farm and retail food prices.

Young made the statement after publication of an Agriculture Department survey which attributed increased marketing costs mostly to industrial wage increases. The report said "middlemen's profits are not a factor."

The effect on factory workers' wage hikes on the farmer's dwindling share of the consumer's food dollar has been argued hotly in recent weeks. Farm prices are a major issue in the early stages of the presidential campaign.

Young, a key member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, said he doubts if labor costs have been as much a factor in the farm price situation as the survey indicates.

"I understand that profits of processors are at an all-time high," he said.

The report, issued by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson yesterday, said profits of a group of labor food processors, wholesalers and detailers have "grown substantially" since 1945. It added the increases were due primarily to increased sales by the concerns.

**Wage Rates Up**

"The spread has widened primarily because of the substantial increase in all costs of performing marketing services since 1945," the report said. "Wage rates are up almost 100 per cent over 1945. Freight rates and other costs—packaging material, containers, fuel, equipment, rents, etc.—are up about two thirds."

The report said "labor costs are the largest single item in the operating costs of most food marketing firms."

## Secrecy Surrounds Whereabouts of Two Dionne Girls

Montreal—(U.P.)—A new veil of secrecy today surrounded the whereabouts of two of the surviving Dionne quintuplets.

Officials of the Notre-Dame de l'Esperance Hospital, where Cecile and Yvonne are student nurses, declined to say today whether the two girls had returned to their posts after playing truant New Year's Eve.

The two sisters had gone to their parents' home in Callander, Ont., along with Annette, to end a family rift. The girls were to have reported to the hospital for all-night duty on the last night of the old year.

**Fail to Return**

But Sister Marie-Victoire, in charge of student nurses, revealed Sunday that the 21-year-old quintuplets had not returned and she did not know where they could be reached.

Sister Marie-Victoire was unavailable today but another religious nursing sister at the hospital said she was not permitted to say whether Cecile and Yvonne had returned.

Annette remained with the Dionne family at Callander to greet the New Year when her sisters returned. Marie, still in frail health after being treated at the hospital, remained at a Montreal apartment she shared with her three sisters most of the holiday spent the rest of the time with friends.

Agricultural research is revealing a relationship between some animal ailments and the mineral contents of soils upon which they live.

## Forums To Play Major Role in Coming Campaign

Washington—(U.P.)—The returning Congress today reopened the nation's biggest political forums for the 1956 election year.

Although Congress contained less than its usual quota of presidential hopefuls, the political clamor within the capitol will be loud and continuous. Farm prices, taxes, foreign aid, schools, highways and other issues which Congress will decide will play a major role in the coming campaign.

Not only the White House but all seats in the House and a third of those in the Senate will be at stake next November. The record written by individual members and by the two major parties will have an effect on the outcome of these elections.

Democrats want to retain and Republicans want to regain control of Congress. The Senate lineup is now 49 Democrats and 47 Republicans; the House has 230 Democrats, 203 Republicans and two vacancies.

**No Direct Effect**

There was no indication yet that this session of Congress would have much direct effect on the pre-convention struggle or struggles for presidential nominations.

On the Democratic side, only Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.) is an avowed candidate for his party's nomination. There have been no hat-in-the-ring hints from others, although Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) is viewed as a possible dark horse candidate in case of a national convention deadlock.

**Senate Republican Leader** William F. Knowland is expected to become an avowed candidate for the GOP nomination if President Eisenhower fails to announce his plans in the next month.

If Mr. Eisenhower should announce his retirement, Knowland and other Republicans who have been restive under some administration policies can be expected to be more eager to speak out.

**Silence Smothers Moves**

Meanwhile, except for Knowland and perhaps some "favorite son" candidates, Mr. Eisenhower's silence will smother any moves by other GOP leaders to display an interest in the presidential nomination.

Sen. John W. Bricker (R-O.) who tried for the GOP nomination in 1944 and settled for second place, is a favorite son candidate in Ohio.

The Senate is also the home base for Vice President Richard M. Nixon, who is regarded as a strong contender for the GOP nomination if Mr. Eisenhower retires. However, the Senate gives the vice-president no political forum.

With the election only 11 months away, there is still no sign that the Democratic side of Congress is ready to aim broadsides at Mr. Eisenhower personally. As long as the Democrats feel that his public popularity is still running high, they will be shooting at the men around him.

## Congressional Investigations To Be Aimed At 'Big Business Control of Government'

Washington—(U.P.)—House Democratic Leader John W. McCormack said today congressional investigations this year will be aimed primarily at "big business control of government" under the Eisenhower administration.

The Massachusetts legislator cited as particularly ripe for investigation:

1. The award of billions of dollars in defense orders by secret, negotiated contract.
2. The "gradual destruction of small business."

Democratic controlled investigations also will be aimed at what Democrats claim is the "giveaway" of natural resources and the administration's "unfair" loyalty-security procedures.

Congress has voted \$5,000,000

for investigations in 1956.

**Spending Investigation**

A House Armed Services subcommittee this month will open what is expected to be a far-reaching investigation of defense spending. Committee Chairman Carl Vinson (D-Ga.) has accused the administration of a "shocking" abuse of military buying by virtually scrapping open, competitive bids. He said this has wasted billions of dollars.

The subcommittee, headed by Rep. F. Edward Hebert (D-La.) will start hearings soon to find out if aircraft manufacturers are reaping excessive profits under the administration's procurement policies.

Rep. Earl Chudoff (D-Pa.) is scheduled to reopen his Government Operations subcommittee's

stormy investigation into administration power policies.

**Communist Activity**

Chairman Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.) will continue his House Anti-trust subcommittee investigation of "dollar-a-year" men and other officials suspected of

using their public offices to promote private business interests.

The Senate Internal Security subcommittee will resume its inquiry into alleged Communist activity during the Truman administration.

The House Un-American Activities committee will investigate the Ford-financed Fund for the Republic. It also will continue its investigation of the National Labor Relations board.

Two Senate subcommittees are investigating the Eisenhower administration's loyalty-security program.

## Former US Treasurer Prisoner of Bandits

Richland, Kan.—(U.P.)—Mrs. Georgia Neese Clark Gray, former treasurer of the United States, was held prisoner for about an hour last night by three men who forced her to open the vault at the bank which she heads here.

Officers said the bandits obtained \$1280 from the Richland State Bank of which Mrs. Gray is president, and an additional \$767 from the general store operated by Mrs. Gray and her husband, Andrew J. Gray.

Mrs. Gray told a reporter the men did not threaten her life.

## Surprised Father Of Quads Looking For Extra Work

Lancaster, Pa.—(U.P.)—The quadruplet sons of a \$65-a-week drug store clerk and his wife were "doing fine" today but their surprised father was still a little shaky.

Norman C. Hohenwarter said he "would welcome" additional work to help support his suddenly enlarged family and bemoaned the fact that his quadruplets, although born prematurely, came too late to qualify him for additional deductions on his 1955 income tax.

**No Help Offered**

"No, no one's offered any better job or any kind of financial help," the 26-year-old father said before going to work as usual today. "I haven't even stopped to think about what we are going to do when my wife and the babies get home."

"The one thing I'd like now is to get additional work to take care of this big family."

Hohenwarter felt the hospital wasn't really ready for the quads. "We were expecting twins so it really came as a surprise to everybody," he said.

The boys, baptized Norman Charles, Carl Conrad, Philip John and Mark Anthony at the hospital by priests from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church here, were born yesterday morning.

**Good Survival Chance**

Hospital authorities said the infants were "doing fine" and had a good chance to survive. They were not weighed immediately but nurses estimated they weighed from three to four pounds each. They were placed in an incubator soon after their birth.

If the boys had been born before midnight Dec. 31 they would have meant a total exemption of \$2400 for the 1955 tax year.

## Major Issues Will Face New Congress

Washington—(U.P.)—Major issues facing the second session of the 84th Congress:

**Taxes:** Many lawmakers want to vote for an election-year cut in income taxes. But the outcome is in doubt because of the prospects for higher federal spending, and, in any event, nothing will be done immediately. Democratic leaders will wait for President Eisenhower's tax recommendations to be made in the spring before mapping strategy.

**Farm:** Democrats will seek Senate passage of a House-approved bill jangling the administration's flexible program and restoring rigid high price supports. But they concede they could not override a probable presidential veto. The administration will propose new "soil bank" subsidy with prospects good for enactment in some form.

**Schools:** Congress is expected to enact a new program of federal spending to help local communities build schools. Administration will recommend it. House Education and Labor committee has approved its own plan. But legislation could be killed by fight over aid to school districts practicing segregation.

**Highways:** Approval of expanded road-building program is almost certain. The issue is how to pay for it. Administration will seek compromise between (1) its previously proposed, but rejected, bond financing

plan and (2) higher taxes on gasoline and tires favored by Speaker Sam Rayburn (D-Tex.).

**Foreign Policy:** Sharp increase in foreign aid funds sought by administration already has run into strong opposition. Congress is almost certain to scale down the requested \$4,900,000,000. Democrats will be gunning at the Eisenhower administration also on alleged failure of the summit conference and the resumption of the cold war.

**Natural Gas:** There will be a party-splitting sectional fight on the Senate over House-proposed bill to exempt natural gas from federal control. Passage is probable. But senators from consuming areas say that they have a chance of defeating it.

**Social Security:** The House in the last session approved a bill to lower benefit age for women and disabled workers and to raise employee-employer payroll taxes to pay for it. Administration is reported planning to ask Senate for less liberal plan without tax boosts.

## Eiffel Tower Saved By Parisian Firemen

Paris—(U.P.)—Over-worked television cables set the top of the Eiffel Tower on fire early today, but Parisian firemen dashed up its 1710 steps and saved the old landmark.

Apparently the strain of broadcasting election returns through the night was too much for electrical equipment installed in the 905-foot high third platform.

It was the first fire in the tower's history since it was opened by King Edward VII in 1889 when he was Prince of Wales. It also was the first television coverage of a French election.

Fire broke out before dawn, casting a glow into the sky over Paris. The Eiffel Tower could be seen miles away like a gigantic flaming beacon.

But it was not too serious and 15 firemen who lugged fire extinguishers up the steps soon brought the blaze under control. The damage appeared confined to rubber insulation on the TV cables.

The firemen had to run up the steps because the tower's elevators don't work at night.

**BEER QUENCHES FIRE**

Soperton, Wis.—(U.P.)—Two boys, aged 11 and 13, were credited today with checking a tavern fire by dousing the flames with beer drawn from spigots.

## Nine Air Force Men Escape Plane Crash

Tokyo—(U.P.)—A U. S. Air Force cargo plane crashed near Tokyo tonight, but the nine Americans aboard escaped without injuries.

The Flying Boxcar crashed about two and a half miles south of the U. S. Tachikawa Air Base while coming in for a landing.

An Air Force spokesman said cause of the wreck could not be determined immediately. An investigative board of Air Force officers was dispatched to the scene shortly after the wreck.

The cargo plane crashed into a plowed field near the Tamegawa river, about 20 miles west of Tokyo.

A spokesman for the U. S. Far East Air Forces said none of the nine crewmen aboard was hurt and no one was injured on the ground.

The plane was assigned to the Air Material Force, Pacific Area, and was based at Tachikawa.

## El Centro Jarred By Second Quake

El Centro, Calif.—(U.P.)—A light earthquake, the second in Southern California in two days, today jarred this community in Imperial Valley, scene of some 75 separate earth shocks last month.

The quake rattled windows and doors, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injury.

Police at nearby Brawley and at the border community of Calexico said they did not feel the quake.

The tremor yesterday hit a wider area. It was reported in Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange and Riverside counties. Rose Bowl television viewers in San Diego said the shock jiggled their TV sets.

Seismologist Fred Robinson in San Diego said his instruments indicated the tremor's center was off the California coast.

## Freak Mishap Puzzles Accident Statisticians

Holland, Mich.—(U.P.)—Accident statisticians had a hard time finding the right category for the accident involving Bastian D. Bouman, 47.

Bouman was unloading welding equipment from a truck when a gauge on one of the tanks was knocked off. Bouman was burned by the escaping acetylene gas.

Fearing the tank might blow up, Bouman ran into the street and was hit by a car. He suffered severe leg and hip bruises.

An average passenger automobile is driven about 9,200 miles per year.

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