

Review of the History-Making Events of the World

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

© Western Newspaper Union.

Clark, Wheeler Attack President's Court Plan

THOUGH President Roosevelt persisted in his intention to force through congress his measure to "reform" the federal judiciary, law-makers who have been his warm supporters are coming out one by one in hot opposition to his plan to pack the Supreme court. Among them are Senator Bennett C. Clark of Missouri and Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, both leading Democrats. They studied the scheme carefully before issuing their statements. The announcements of these men was scarcely offset by a radio address by Attorney General Homer S. Cummings, dutifully defending the President's plan.

Senator Clark

Senator Clark said he was entirely in accord with the minor proposals in Mr. Roosevelt's scheme, but was totally unable to agree with the provisions for packing the Supreme court. He continued: "The conclusion is unescapable that to increase the court at one time by the increase of an additional two-thirds of its present membership is to pack the court with reference to a particular situation and particular litigation now pending or to be immediately pending before it.

"To me it seems a radical and unnecessary change in our whole system of government, without the submission to the people in the proper form of an amendment to the Constitution. Therefore I shall vote against that portion of the President's proposals."

Then came Senator Wheeler, stalwart radical, with a statement which it was reported he made public over the protests of the White House. He said in part:

"I am, always have been, and will continue to be opposed to the usurpation of legislative functions by the courts; I am, have been, and will be opposed to usurpation of legislative and judicial functions by the executive branch of the government."

"The issue is: How are we going to prevent in the future this usurpation of the legislative power by the courts? Shall we attempt to coerce them by packing the court with six new men? If we do add six new men to the court does it correct the evil? Or is it merely a temporary expedient? . . .

"If this administration can increase the Supreme court to make it subservient to its wishes, another Harding administration can do the same thing."

"There is nothing democratic, progressive, or fundamentally sound in the proposal advanced by the administration."

Attorney General Cummings advanced these two reasons for supporting the President's proposal:

New blood should be injected into the judiciary in order that the Constitution shall be construed in keeping with the changing needs produced by new complexities of national life.

The congestion of dockets in the federal courts is largely due to the inability of aged and infirm judges to perform their share of the work.

Investigation has shown, however, that the second reason is unsound. Commenting on Mr. Cummings' speech, Senator Glass of Virginia said: "I think it indicates that the country is in infinitely greater need of an attorney general than of additional judges on the Supreme court

or of judicial wet nurses for six of the present members of the court."

Senator Minton of Indiana defended the plan in a radio address but probably did it more harm than good, for he frankly admitted the purpose of the administration is to change the personnel and views of the Supreme court, in order that President Roosevelt's New Deal program will be held constitutional.

World Is Preparing for Another War

ACCORDING to a survey made by the Foreign Policy association, the world expenditure on arms and armies in preparation for war has more than doubled in the last two years, reaching a record height of \$11,000,000,000 in 1936 alone. The cost of armaments in 1934 was \$5,000,000,000.

Soviet Russia in both years is accredited with the lead in the spending for military purposes, its military budget for 1936 reaching almost \$3,000,000,000. But the greatest increase in the course of the two years was recorded by Germany whose tremendous rearmament program has raised the German military budget to seven times its 1934 level. It is estimated as spending \$2,600,000,000 in 1936.

In Germany, Japan and Italy the proportion of the national income going to unproductive military purposes has reached "alarming figures" and many other countries have "strained their financial resources," the report declares.

Indiana Auto Workers Appeal to President

MEMBERS of the United Automobile Workers stirred up a riot in Anderson, Ind., that resulted in the injury of several men, and Governor Townsend responded to an appeal from the sheriff of Madison county by sending National Guardsmen to maintain order and keep outsiders from entering the county to aggravate the trouble. Thereupon Victor Reuther, a leader of the U. A. W., sent a telegram to President Roosevelt calling for "direct intervention" and demanding the lifting of the military restrictions "so that union members can become free men again." Information from Anderson indicated the union men were directly responsible for the disorder.

Schuschnigg Favors Return of Hapsburg Dynasty

RESTORATION of the Hapsburg dynasty in Austria was openly advocated by Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg, who committed his government party to that proposition. He intimated that a plebiscite would be held to decide the question.

The chancellor asserted that increasing official support would be given to the campaign to place Archduke Otto of Hapsburg again on the throne which his father, the Emperor Karl, "temporarily renounced" November 11, 1918. The archduke is twenty-four years old.

Schuschnigg gave no hint of the nature of the prospective plebiscite on the restoration question. Constitutional authorities pointed out that the head of the state is elected by the mayors of Austria. Opinions differed as to whether the mayors would be competent to recall Archduke Otto at this juncture.

British Destroyers Fire on Spanish Rebel Plane

SIX bombs were dropped by a plane, supposedly a Spanish insurgent craft, close to two British destroyers off the coast of Algeria. The warships, which were not damaged, drove away the plane with gunfire. The British government at once lodged protests with the Fascist authorities.

Valencia, the temporary capital of the loyalist government, was

shelled by an insurgent warship and many persons, most of them women and children, were reported killed and injured. The city is packed with refugees and the civil population was panic-stricken by the bombardment.

A few days previously a Fascist warship shelled Barcelona, capital of the autonomous state of Catalonia, and the Catalans were fully mobilized to meet the threat of serious attack by Franco's forces.

Wallace's Solution of the Farm Problem

SOLUTION of the farm problem, as devised by agricultural leaders who have been in conference with Secretary Wallace, is based on Mr. Wallace's ever-normal granary plan. It would operate on these four stages:

1. Soil conservation payments would be continued until production balances demand.

2. When a surplus in any commodity is grown, the government would offer farmers loans at market prices for storage of the commodity in bins.

3. If the surplus continued, soil benefit payments for removal of acreage from cultivation would be increased.

4. Should surpluses increase to 10 or 15 per cent above demand the government would impose taxes on excess production to force acreage reduction.

Officials said no definite plan of taxation has been worked out.

General Motors Strike Is Settled by Compromise

BOTH sides making concessions, the General Motors strike came to an end in what Governor Murphy of Michigan called "an enduring peace." Operations of the great corporation had been paralyzed for 43 days, and the losses to it in business and to workers in wages have been immense. Partly through the skillful efforts of James F. Dewey, veteran federal labor conciliator, John L. Lewis, head of



John L. Lewis

the C. I. O., and other union leaders, and the officials of General Motors were persuaded to modify the defiant stands they had maintained through eight days of negotiations in Detroit, and the governor was enabled to announce the settlement.

Under the terms of the agreement:

1—The corporation recognized the union as the collective bargaining agency for those employees belonging to the union.

2—The corporation and the union agreed to commence collective bargaining negotiations on February 16.

3—The union agreed to end the strike and evacuate all plants occupied by strikers.

4—The corporation promised to resume operations in all strike-bound or idle plants "as rapidly as possible."

5—All employees are to return to work without discrimination against strikers.

6—The union agreed that pending negotiations there will be no other strikes or interference with production.

7—During existence of the collective bargaining agreement contemplated, all opportunities to negotiate shall be exhausted before any other strike or production interference is attempted by the union.

8—After evacuation of plants the corporation agreed to dismiss the injunction proceedings started by the corporation against the union or any members in Flint, Mich.

Secretary of Labor Perkins, whose own efforts to end the strike were futile, was highly gratified by the settlement. She gave out a statement praising the leaders on

both sides for their give and take spirit and complimenting Governor Murphy on his success. Probably considerable credit should be given President Roosevelt, who kept constantly in close touch with the situation and talked with the conferees by telephone from the White House.

Jim Farley Banqueted by 1,600 Democrats

HEADED by President Roosevelt and Vice President Garner, 1,600 Democratic government officials, state committeemen and prominent figures in the worlds of business and sports honored James A. Farley with a banquet in Washington. Mr. Garner was master of ceremonies and called the roll of distinguished guests by states. Mr. Roosevelt made a speech, which was carried to the country by radio.

Navy Cannot Get Bids for Steel It Needs

DOMESTIC manufacturers persistently refuse to offer bids on the steel that the navy needs for its warship building program. President Roosevelt wants to know why this is, and so far he has found out that the Walsh-Healy government contract law is to blame. That act requires that all manufacturers filling government orders in excess of \$10,000 shall comply with minimum wage and maximum hour standards.

Since the act became effective last year, the navy has advertised for bids on 25,000,000 pounds of steel but has been able to place orders for only 7,000,000 pounds.

Spokesmen for the Navy department indicate no further bids would be asked until the industry has recorded its position or unless the Labor department moves to relax the labor standard provisions of the law.

President's Trade Treaty Power Is Extended

THE house passed and sent to the senate a resolution extending for three years the President's power to negotiate trade treaties with foreign nations irrespective of congressional approval. Some Democrats voted against the measure and were applauded by the little body of Republicans. The revolvers were led by W. P. Connery of Massachusetts, who hails from a textile city, and J. Mark Wilcox of Florida, whose district is noted for its vegetables. Both said the opposition was based on complaints from their constituents.

Great Plains Drouth Plan Laid Before Congress

CONCLUSIONS of the great plains drouth committee were laid before congress by President Roosevelt, the report being accompanied by a special message in which the President urged the development of a "new economy" in the vast area between the Alleghenies and the Rockies to save the region from the effects of future drouths. The whole matter, said Mr. Roosevelt, dovetails into the proposed six year public works program.

The great plains committee suggested for the federal government:

1. A ten year program of additional investigations and surveys.

2. Continued acquisition of land in range areas with rehabilitation as the objective.

3. Measures to increase size of farms too small for efficient operations.

4. Development of water resources.

5. Resettlement within and without the region.

6. Compensation to local governments where federal land acquisition results in shrinkage of the local tax basis.

7. Control and eradication of insect pests.

8. Exploration of possibilities for developing other resources, such as vast lignite deposits to provide al-

ternative occupation for some of the people in the area.

Similar action was suggested for states with the addition of suggestions for legislation to permit formation of county soil conservation districts, encouragement of co-operative grazing associations, revision of the taxing system to take account of land income and assistance to farmers in meeting water problems.

For local co-operation the committee suggested crop rotation, creation of feed and seed reserves against dry years, conservation of moisture, supplemental irrigation, fuller utilization of springs and wells, planting of trees and shrubs as windbreaks and flexible cropping plans to permit adaptation of each season's crop to the amount of moisture in the land.

Hayashi Urges Russia and China to Be Peaceful

GEN. SENJURO HAYASHI, premier and foreign minister of Japan, in a formal statement of policy to the parliament, said his government would



Sugiyama

"pay special attention" to the adjustment of the empire's relations with soviet Russia and China, and urged those nations to cease their quarrels with Japan and try to comprehend Japan's position and aims in East Asia.

He called attention to the fact that Japan no longer is bound by any naval limitations treaty but declared "there shall be no change in our policy of strict adherence to the principle of nonmenace and non-aggression."

Hayashi's cabinet decided on a budget reduction of approximately 8½ per cent; Lieut. Gen. Hajime Sugiyama, the new war minister, objected to any cut in the huge army budget, but it was reduced slightly.

Flood Control Measure for Seven "Authorities"

DESCRIBING it as a flood control measure, Senators Albion W. Barkley of Kentucky and R. J. Bulkley of Ohio introduced a bill in the senate designed to create seven federal "authorities" with powers similar to those of the Tennessee Valley authority. Together with the TVA, these would cover the entire United States. The measure is in accordance with the President's suggestions for regional authorities to co-ordinate flood control, power, reclamation and rehabilitation work.

As for the current flood, the people in the stricken regions were turning to the task of rehabilitation. Self supporting residents of Cairo who had been evacuated were permitted to return to the city, and martial law was lifted from the southern counties of Ohio and Indiana. The levees along the lower Mississippi were standing up well under the strain.

Contributions to the American Red Cross flood relief fund were nearly up to \$20,000,000, twice the sum originally asked.

Amnesty for Political Offenders in Mexico

SEEMINGLY confident that his government is now safely established, President Lazaro Cardenas of Mexico issued a decree granting amnesty to all political offenders, under arrest for or accused of rebellion, sedition or other subversive activities. Under special powers given him by congress, he squashed 3,841 court proceedings against more than 10,000 persons accused of antigovernment plots or acts.

Former President Calles, who was exiled nearly a year ago, said in San Diego, Calif., that he did not consider himself included in the amnesty.



Atty. Gen. Cummings