

Review of the History-Making Events of the World

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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Senate Committee Studies Supreme Court Scheme

CHAIRMAN HENRY F. ASHURST of Arizona gathered together the members of his judiciary committee and began formal consideration of president Roosevelt's proposition for federal judiciary reform, including the packing of the Supreme court. It was understood the committee would arrange for public hearings at which opponents and proponents of the plan would be privileged to speak their minds. Not long before, Mr. Ashurst and several other senators were called to the White House to discuss the strategy of the fight the administration faces. The Arizona senator and Majority Leader Joe Robinson of Arkansas, who was among the conferees, only recently were vociferous in declaring a constitutional amendment was the only proper way to accomplish the President's purpose. But now they are obediently supporting the administration measure.

Senators Frazier of North Dakota, Bone of Washington and Nye of North Dakota also were summoned to the White House, but what they heard there did not change their stand against the President's plan. Mr. Nye, indeed, soon after delivered a radio address against it. He did not especially defend the Supreme court, but said he thought there are better ways of attaining the objective in conformity to the Constitution than the way of packing the court proposed by Mr. Roosevelt. He could not see "wherein an 8-7 decision is any more desirable than a 4-5 decision, which has served to agitate us against the alleged course of permitting the Supreme court to declare acts of congress unconstitutional."

"However foreign to the President the thought of dictatorship may be, in connection with his present request it is good warning to look out—not for him necessarily, but for those who would in other days have opportunity to use the power which he would have us now extend."

Ex-President Herbert Hoover in an address before the Union League club of Chicago uttered solemn warning that the President's plan was a serious threat against the ultimate safeguard of liberty, and condemned any such "quick and revolutionary change in the Constitution."

At this writing 32 senators have declared publicly against the bill; 30 are on record for it, and 34 have not committed themselves. The administration leaders expected to pick up at least 12 from the non-committal group, and claimed more.

Sit-Down Strike Worries Governor of Illinois

GOV. HENRY HORNER of Illinois and Martin Durkin, his state director of labor, were making earnest efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement of a sit-down strike in the plants of the Fansteel Metallurgical corporation at North Chicago. Their problem was much like that faced by Governor Murphy of Michigan in the General Motors strike. The sheriff of Lake county, armed with contempt citations, had tried to evict the strikers but he and his force of deputies were repulsed and it was reported he would not take the sole responsibility of clearing out the plants by force.

The corporation had refused to treat with outsiders who sought to represent the employees who belong to a union allied with the C. I. O. The heat had been turned off in the plants, but when the weather turned cold President Aitchison of the company ordered it turned on again, believing a majority of the men in the

buildings were held there against their will.

Governor Hoffman of New Jersey is one executive who has taken a firm stand against the sit-down strike. He announced that he would use all the resources of the state to prevent such seizures of property. The C. I. O. organizers denounced him as an enemy and "the strike-breakers" candidate for President," and went ahead with their unionization activities in the steel, wire and rubber companies of New Jersey. Their field director said:

"When C. I. O. workers decide to use sit-down strikes, they will use them. We pay no attention to Governor Hoffman. We know our legal rights."

John L. Lewis' threat, during the General Motors strike, that "Ford and Chrysler are next," is being carried out. The United Automobile Workers union sent to Walter P. Chrysler demands that the U. A. W. be recognized by his corporation as the sole collective bargaining agency.

Death of Congressman James P. Buchanan

CONGRESS lost one of its really useful members when James P. Buchanan of Texas died of heart disease at the age of seventy-three. He was chairman of the powerful house appropriations committee and personally was an advocate of rigid economy. The chairmanship now goes to Representative E. T. Taylor of Colorado.

Winant Quits as Head of Social Security Board

JOHN G. WINANT, who as chairman of the social security board had a lot of trouble with certain senators over patronage and whose reappointment to membership on the board had not been confirmed by the senate, sent his resignation to the President. Mr. Roosevelt said Mr. Winant was retiring to attend to pressing private business and would be back in the federal service before very long. The former governor of New Hampshire has been considered a logical candidate for the post of secretary of social welfare if that department is created by congress.

Succeeding Mr. Winant as chairman is Arthur J. Altmeyer, already a member of the board. To fill the vacancy in the membership the President nominated Murray W. Latimer of New York, who has been chairman of the railroad retirement board.

Viceroy's Life Attempted by Ethiopian Bombers

THAT Italy's conquest of Ethiopia does not yet embrace all Ethiopians was demonstrated when a shower of hand grenades was hurled at Viceroy Rodolfo Graziani in Addis Ababa by natives. The viceroy was only slightly injured but several in his suite, including Air Gen. Aurelio Liotta and the Abuna Cyril, Coptic bishop of Ethiopia, were severely wounded. The attack took place just before the close of celebrations for the birth of a son to the crown prince of Italy.

The assassins escaped in the confusion, but the army and police started on a relentless manhunt and soon had more than 2,000 natives under arrest.

Nanking Offers Peace to Chinese Communists

OFFERING to make peace with the Chinese communists against whom it has waged war for ten years, the National government at Nanking announced the terms on which those reds would be allowed participation in national affairs. The Kuomintang's demands are: Abolition of the communist army and its incorporation in the National government forces; dissolution of the Chinese communist state and its unification with the central government; cessation of red propaganda opposed to Kuomintang principles, and stoppage of the class struggle which divides society into antagonistic classes and invites mutual destruction.

That the Nanking government is steadily growing stronger is made evident in the more conciliatory attitude adopted lately by Japan. A spokesman for Hayashi's new cabinet in Tokio indicated Japan was willing to abate its demands for simultaneous settlement of all pending Sino-Japanese incidents and negotiate separate settlements for each.

The Japanese press went even further to predict the government would withdraw all demands on China except for downward adjustment of tariffs. For this, however, the press states, Japan was willing in return to take active measures to suppress smuggling into North China by her nationals, one of the gravest of China's economic difficulties.

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President Asks Measure to Help Farm Tenants

IN A special message to congress President Roosevelt urged legislation to "improve the present intolerable condition" of 3,000,000 farm tenants, presenting this four-point program:

1. Action to open the doors of ownership to tenants who now have the requisite ability and experience.
2. Modest loans, with the necessary guidance and education to prevent small owners from slipping into tenancy.
3. The retirement by public agencies of land proved to be unsuited for farming and assistance to the families living thereon in finding homes on good land.
4. Co-operation with state and local agencies of government to improve the general leasing system.

Congressional leaders promised immediate action, and Chairman Jones of the house agriculture committee said the Jones-Bankhead 500,000,000 farm tenant bill now before congress would be made the basis for the new legislation.

The President's farm tenancy committee, headed by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, recommended that congress make available "a definite sum each year for a number of years" for a land-purchase program, but mentioned no definite figure. Wallace said, however, he thought Jones' proposal for \$50,000,000 annual appropriation for ten years is "reasonable."

Blockade of Spain to Insulate Civil War

SO FAR as the international non-intervention committee can do it, the war in Spain is now insulated. Representatives of 26 European nations agreed that no more volunteers for either side in the civil conflict should be permitted to enter the Iberian peninsula, effective at midnight February 20; and they laid plans for a complete blockade by land and sea that would prevent the importation of any more men or war munitions. Only Portugal dissented, objecting to establishment of frontier guards on her territory; Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia ignored the Portuguese protests and went ahead with the blockade plans, which are to be put into effect by March 6.

The decisions were reached after France delivered a virtual ultimatum to her fellow committee members to end their bickering and warned Italy she would not stand for "open invasion of Spain." The French were quick to place guards at all strategic points along the Franco-Spanish frontier.

The international naval patrols presumably will not have authority to stop vessels suspected of carrying arms and men to Spain, but will report ship movements to the committee for action and will place

observers on the vessels to check cargoes.

Supposing this blockade to be successful, it may well be that the Spanish civil war will die of inanition. Then may be brought about that which the international committee seeks—international mediation between the insurgents and the loyalist government.

For the present both sides are renewing their efforts for decisive victory. The fascists, still driving hard at the "life line" that connects Madrid and Valencia, also are attacking the capital itself again. Their airplanes made two night bombing assaults on the city and its environs, killing a number of persons; and their artillery constantly shells the highways to Valencia.

The loyalist government, at its temporary seat in Valencia, took a new mandate of absolute power from all Popular Front parties and mobilized all available manpower to oppose the insurgent forces. All military classes of the last five years were drafted for immediate war service.

Union Labor Takes Hand in Navy Steel Affair

BOTH the American Federation of Labor and the Committee for Industrial Organization accuse steel manufacturers of collusion in refraining from bidding on navy steel contracts and have instructed their chiefs to ask the Department of Justice to investigate the reasons for a shortage of armor plate needed by the navy.

President William Green of the A. F. of L. said he believed the absence of bids was caused by desire on the part of steel makers to avoid labor restrictions of the Walsh-Healy act.

"The federation council took a very definite position," Green said. "We could not sponsor or favor any modification of the Walsh-Healy act as it applies to those steel corporations refraining from bidding."

"The American Federation of Labor sponsored that bill and it is a reasonable and fair measure providing work standards that are reasonable and fair. We gain the impression that there is collusion on the part of the steel corporations because no single steel company has submitted a bid."

Paul V. McNutt Appointed to Philippines Post

PAUL V. MCNUTT, former governor of Indiana, has been appointed to the desirable post of high commissioner to the Philippines, at a salary of \$18,000 a year and with residence in a huge palace in Manila. Mr. McNutt is still considered one of the possibilities for the Presidential nomination by the Democrats in 1940. It had been thought he might get a place in the present cabinet.

Arrest of Germans in Russia Protested

THIRTY-EIGHT Germans have been under arrest in Russia for several months and are held without trial. The German ambassador to Moscow, Count von der Schulenberg, has made "serious" representations to the Soviet government and demanded that a representative of the embassy be permitted to interview the prisoners. Presumably the men are suspected of espionage and sabotage, in connection with the anti-Stalin conspiracy.

Coal Operators and Miners Negotiating Terms

REPRESENTATIVES of the soft coal operators met with John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, in New York to start negotiations for a new wage and hour agreement for 400,000 miners. "There is no friction in our indus-

try. Peace dwells in the coal fields. I hope this conference will be successful in working out a new agreement without loss of time to a single worker."

Thereupon he presented the demands of the union, which were promptly dubbed "utterly impossible" and "quite amazing" by Charles O'Neill, president of the Eastern Coal Sales corporation.

- Chief demands of Lewis are:
1. A six hour day and a five day week in place of the present work week of 35 hours.
 2. An increase in daily wages from \$5.50 to \$6 in the north, and from \$5.10 to \$5.60 in the south.
 3. Time and a half for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays.
 4. A minimum of 200 days' employment each year.
- The operators proposed a 40 hour week with no increase in wages.

Shell Explosion on Warship Kills Six of Crew

ONE officer and five enlisted men of the marine corps were killed and ten others were injured when a 5-inch shell exploded in the improperly closed breech of a gun on the battleship Wyoming. The accident occurred during battle maneuvers off the coast of southern California.

The men killed were: Capt. Edward J. Trumble, Alexandria, Va.; John Bauer, Cincinnati, Ohio; Albert Enos, Cambridge, Mass.; Joseph W. Bozynski, Pittsburgh; Clinton Walker, Boykin, S. C.; and Richard Frye, Johnstown, Pa.

Britain's Navy Plan May Enlarge Our Program

PRIME MINISTER STANLEY BALDWIN'S government of Great Britain is asking for \$7,500,000,000 to finance its "war plan in time of peace," and is meeting with determined opposition from the Liberals, Laborites and others in parliament. These especially object to the plan for enlargement of the nation's land, sea and air forces by a \$2,000,000,000 loan and increased taxation.

Commenting on Sec'y of Navy the British naval construction program, Admiral William D. Leahy, chief of naval operations of the American navy, served notice that any foreign nations expanding their navies beyond the standards of recent treaties might expect that the United States would match their construction. He said it was his understanding that this nation was definitely committed to the maintenance of a "navy second to none." To maintain that principle, he declared, it would become necessary for the United States to build new ships if other powers did. The present United States building program calls for start of construction this year on two new capital ships. Great Britain already has laid the keels of two new craft and the program announced in London calls for the start, after April 1, of construction of a third new vessel. When Britain lays a third keel, then this government is likely to start similar construction.

Ten Killed in Accident on Golden Gate Bridge

SCAFFOLDING on the Golden Gate bridge at San Francisco collapsed and crashed through the great safety net, carrying with it 13 men who plunged 200 feet into the bay. Ten were killed and the others seriously injured.

The tragedy, first major accident during construction of the \$36,000,000 span, which is to open next May, was caused by a broken roller caster. The state industrial accident commissioner said an inspector had twice reported that the scaffolding was unsafe, but this was emphatically denied by Philip Hart, president of the construction company.



Sen. Ashurst



Arthur J. Altmeyer



Wm. Green



Sec'y of Navy Swanson