

News Review of Current Events

WE'RE STILL "IN THE RED"

Treasury Report Shows \$2,707,347,110 Deficit for '37
New Court Bill Offered . . Nazis Jail Church Head



Riots continued as steel plants attempted reopening.

Edward W. Pickard

SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK
© Western Newspaper Union.

Uncle Sam Checks Up

UNCLE SAM wound up the 1937 fiscal year with a net deficit of \$2,707,347,110, or about \$150,000,000 more than President Roosevelt estimated last April, according to the report of the United States Treasury.

The gross national public debt climbed to a total of \$36,424,613,732 as of June 30, it was shown.

Receipts for the period just closed were the largest in 16 years, amounting to \$5,293,840,236, compared with \$4,115,956,615 for the 1936-37 year and about \$70,000,000 in excess of estimates. Expenditures were \$8,105,158,547, including \$103,933,250 for debt retirement originally planned for that period but carried over into the current year.

Completion of the debt retirement program as previously contemplated would have called for the expenditure of \$404,525,000, which would have placed the gross deficit above the \$3,000,000,000 mark.

For the preceding period, expenditures, including debt retirement and the nonrecurring bonus payments, aggregated \$8,879,798,258.

In the 1936-37 period, recovery and relief costs were more than \$400,000,000 below the total for the year before, amounting to \$2,846,462,932 against \$3,290,927,869.

For the year just closed the Treasury borrowed from the public about \$2,475,000,000 refunded \$1,821,000,000 of notes and redeemed \$900,000,000 of short-term discount bills. The total debt of \$36,424,613,732 at the end of the period was \$2,646,000,000 larger than a year ago.

Reliable authorities around the capitol said that as soon as all appropriation bills for the 1938 fiscal year were cleared, the President would direct the heads of all government departments to impound 10 per cent of their appropriations, exclusive of fixed charges, in an attempt to balance the budget. Experts said that a maximum of \$400,000,000 could be saved in that way. The prospective net deficit for 1938 was estimated at \$400,000,000.

His Sermons Were Popular

FOUR years ago the Protestant church in Germany was thought to be nearing the end; under the Nazi government it had become

only an organization to officiate at weddings, christenings, funerals and the like. It has recently undergone such a revival at the hands of one Rev. Martin Niemöller, leader of the Confessional synod, and his supporters that of late the churches were overcrowded. Rev. Mr. Niemöller fought to keep politics out of the church.

Lately the fiery minister had been examined almost every week by prosecuting attorneys in Berlin. Then at last he was arrested by the secret police and taken to jail while his wife and six children looked on. He was charged with "stirring up hatred in his speeches against leading persons in the Nazi state and movement." The police raided his offices and seized many documents and about \$12,000. Said an official communique after Rev. Mr. Niemöller's arrest:

"He has spread untrue reports about measures taken by Nazi authorities in order to incense the population. He also called for resistance to state laws and decrees. His statements were part of the steady fare of foreign newspapers hostile to Germany."

'Compromise' Takes Bow

SENATOR M. M. LOGAN, Democrat, of Kentucky, presented the "compromise" version of the President's Supreme court bill to the senate, apparently with the blessings of Majority Leader Joseph T. Robinson and the chief executive. In form an amendment to and substitute for the old Ashurst administration bill, the new draft authorizes appointment of one new justice to the court each year for every justice remaining on the court after reaching the age of seventy-five years. Under its provisions the President would be permitted to name one new justice this year (besides filling the vacancy left by the retirement of Justice Willis Van Devanter) and assure him of at least one new appointment to the court in each remaining year of his present term of office. All of the ap-



Sen. Robinson

pointments would hinge on the decision of justices seventy-five or older on retirement.

The opposition immediately charged that the new bill was as offensive as the old one. Sen. Burton K. Wheeler, Democrat, Montana, said: "The compromise is not going to get through. The new bill is just as objectionable as the old, because it seeks to pack the Supreme court just like the original bill did." Sen. Edward R. Burke, Democrat, Nebraska, said the 43 senators would vote against any kind of measure that would increase the Supreme court.

Some of the other provisions of the new bill were:

Authority for 20 additional appointments to lower courts in the event that judges over seventy fail to retire. The old bill would have permitted 50 new appointments altogether.

Appointment of a \$10,000-a-year proctor as in the original bill to supply the Supreme court with information on the volume and character of litigation.

Authority for the chief justice to assign lower court judges to other districts.

Speedy intervention by the government in cases involving constitutionality of federal laws, and speedy appeal to the Supreme court.

Ford Tests Labor Board

THE national labor relations board is receiving its most exacting test in the hearings at Detroit on the United Automobile Workers' union complaint that the Ford Motor company is guilty of unfair labor practices. The U. A. W. U. is a C. I. O. affiliate; Ford is opposed to the unions.

It was expected that the hearings might take a long time and may eventually reach the United States Supreme court. After the hearings in Detroit a board examiner will draw up "intermediate findings" and send them to the NLRB in Washington, accompanied by a transcript of the evidence and briefs of both sides. The board will then either order the Ford Motor company to "cease and desist" its unfair practices or dismiss the union's charges. Appeal may be taken to the United States circuit court of appeals, which has the power of enforcement which NLRB lacks.

The case may reach the Supreme court if the Constitution is involved. One of the allegedly unfair practices to which the U. A. W. A. objects is distribution of anti-union literature by the Ford company to its employees. The company charges that a denial of this would violate constitutional guaranties of free speech and a free press.

F.D.R. Waxes Impatient

IT WAS believed that the pressure of public opinion in the steel strikes had driven President Roosevelt close to supporting federal legislation similar to that in the amendments proposed by Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan for the national labor relations act. The President indicated at a press conference that he was as much put out at the C. I. O. for forcing organization upon the steel workers as he was with the corporations for refusing to negotiate in terms of a signed contract.

After a talk with Charles P. Taft, who had been chairman of the mediation board that failed to effect a settlement, the President said: "Mr. Taft and I talked over the whole steel situation and came to the conclusion that the nation as a whole, in thinking of the strikes, was saying just one thing—a plague on both your houses."

Senator Vandenberg's proposed amendments were designed to broaden the rights of employers under the Wagner act, forbid "sit-down" strikes and other "unfair" union practices, and provide severe penalties for unions which violated contracts with employers.

Isolates Paralysis Germ

WHAT the medical profession considers a major step in the conquest of infantile paralysis was taken when Dr. Edward Carl Rose now announced to 100 physicians,

surgeons and medical research workers in Glendale, Calif., that he had isolated the germ which causes it. Dr. Rosenow is professor of experimental bacteriology at the Mayo foundation in Rochester, Minn.

Work with spinal fluid taken from nurses who had contracted the disease at the Los Angeles general hospital in 1934 enabled him to isolate the micro-organism.

Dr. Rosenow said that now the germ has been isolated steps must be taken to develop a serum similar to the serums used in fighting other ravaging contagious diseases. He declared that he had been successful in producing a composite vaccine which has proved favorable in preliminary tests.

A practicing physician in Chicago before accepting a series of university posts, Dr. Rosenow came to Los Angeles in 1934 to study poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) under the intimate conditions permitted by the epidemic there in that year. Because of lack of knowledge of proper protective steps several physicians and more than 150 nurses had contracted the disease in the county hospital.

No Water, No Steel, No Jobs

DYNAMITE temporarily stopped a back-to-work movement in the great Cambria works of the Bethlehem Steel corporation at Johnstown, Pa., scene of the most violent altercations among strikers, loyal workers and the law in recent days. Two explosions crippled the principal water mains supplying the plant just as Cambria once more had thrown open its doors and nearly half its 15,000 employees had filed through Steel Workers' Organizing Committee picket lines to resume their labors. It took several days to repair the damage sufficiently to allow part of the workers to return.

The blasts interrupted what had been the nearest semblance of peace—still not very near—since the C. I. O. affiliate called the strike on the big steel independents who refused to sign contracts with what they dubbed "John L. Lewis' irresponsible organization." The strikers' committee "deplored" the explosions and "hoped no strikers had caused them."

Two hundred state troopers, part of the state force which had enforced the martial law declared for a few days and then lifted by Gov. George H. Earle, patrolled the Johnstown district in an attempt to apprehend the dynamiters and protect the water supply of the city itself from damage. Mayor Daniel J. Shields appealed to President Roosevelt again, declaring in a telegram that the majority of his citizens were opposed to the C. I. O. violence and, if provoked much more by the minority, "might take the law into their own hands," adding to the toll of deaths, injuries and destruction that already has been rolled up. He said the strikers were openly declaring that they had the support of the President.

Mediators Blame Steel

THE federal mediation board named by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, which reached a deadlock and gave up in its efforts to help the C. I. O.-affiliated Steel Workers Organizing Committee and the independent steel corporations solve their difficulties, laid the blame for its failure at the door of the steel concerns.

"We cannot but believe that the bitterness and suspicion which separate the two sides would be allayed by a man-to-man discussion around the conference table between the heads of the four companies and the union representatives, and the only present possible hope of settlement lies in such a meeting," the board's report said.

"We further believe that the refusal of the four companies to enter into any agreement with the S. W. O. C., regardless of the number of employees whom it actually rep-

resents, which could be demonstrated by a secret ballot election, is not the way to industrial peace."

The report said that Tom Girdler, chairman of the board of Republic Steel and leader of the companies' fight, stated that "he would not consent to a term contract because he believed it necessary for the proper operation of his company that it should be in a position to meet the fluctuating price of steel by wage variations if it became necessary."

The mediation board reported its interpretation of two views of collective bargaining taken by the companies:

"The Bethlehem Steel corporation stated that under their view of collective bargaining they were required to meet with the representatives of any of their employees; that they would not question their authority, and that they would discuss with them wages, hours, and working conditions.

"The company would later make its decision and if it involved a change in any of these matters they would give notice to all employees through their printed bulletin without any reference to the union or other groups who had secured such a concession. They stated that collective bargaining, in their judgment, did not imply an arrival at any agreement, oral or written, with any representative of their employees. Republic Steel corporation concurred in this view.

"The Inland Steel company stated that they would discuss in collective bargaining the question of whether or not an agreement should be entered into, but they would not enter into an agreement with the S. W. O. C. The Youngstown Sheet and Tube company concurred in this view."

On the board were Charles P. Taft, chairman; Lloyd K. Garrison and Edward F. McGrady.

Rebels Take French Ship

THE situation in Europe was hardly improved, with Germany and Italy still anxious to give the full rights of belligerents to both rebel and loyalist governments in Spain. As the directing subcommittee of the committee of 27 nations for non-intervention met, Britain and France sought desperately to effect some compromise which would keep the entire non-intervention program from being washed overboard, but the two Fascist nations were difficult to woo with any compromises Britain and France could afford to make.

Meanwhile, two French warships were speeding for the Spanish coast between Bilbao and Santander, where, according to reports, the Spanish rebel cruiser Almirante Cervera had fired upon and captured the Tregastel, a French ship carrying loyalist refugees from Santander. The refugee ship had been chartered by a French popular committee to aid the loyalists. It had been reported halted less than three miles off shore, well within Spanish waters.

Pen for Jersey's Parkers

WHEN Paul H. Wendel, former Trenton, N. J., lawyer, "confessed" to the Lindbergh baby kidnapping, the execution of Bruno Richard Hauptmann was delayed three days. Now Ellis Parker, sixty-five, chief of the Burlington county detectives, and his son, Ellis, Jr., twenty-six, have been sentenced to serve six and three years, respectively, in the federal penitentiary by Federal Judge William Clark in Newark. They were convicted of conspiring to seize and torture Wendel to extract from him the false confession. Their attorneys announced an appeal would be filed.

About St. Patrick

In the Gaultie mountains which are situated between the counties of Cork and Tipperary in Ireland there are seven lakes. In one of these, called Lough Dilveen, it is said Saint Patrick when banishing the snakes and toads from Ireland, chained a monster serpent, telling him to remain there till Monday. Irish legend has it that every Monday morning the serpent calls out in Irish, "It is a long Monday, Patrick."