

## News Review of Current Events

# CONGRESS READY TO QUIT

Senate Shelves Court, Farm Bills . . . Spanish Conflict Reaches Crisis . . . Fighting Continues in North China



Sen. Harrison (right) congratulates Sen. Barkley.

## Edward W. Pickard

SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK  
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### 'Aw, Let's Go Home!'

WITH Supreme court bill recommended to the senate judiciary committee, a new substitute bill for reform of only the lower courts due to be reported out of the committee, and a new senate majority leader selected to take the late Senator Robinson's place, the overwhelming sentiment of the members of the seventy-fifth congress was to pack up their bags and get as far away from Washington as possible.

Even measures which President Roosevelt had insisted bear the "must" label were being shoved aside with dispatch, as Vice President Garner sought to heal the party wounds inflicted during the bitter court battle and salvage as much of the President's legislation as he could. The first to be buried was the new AAA and "ever-normal granary" bill; the senate agriculture committee shelved it until the next session. The committee authorized James P. Pope, Idaho Democrat and co-sponsor of the bill, to prepare a senate resolution to lay the plans for regional hearings on a comprehensive farm program during the remainder of the summer and report back in January.

It seemed certain that the President's legislation for governmental reorganization would be left over until next session when the record of three months' hearings by the joint congressional committee was made public. It was revealed that committee members have not even come close to agreement on any of the main points involved.

Majority Leader Barkley said that the White House still wanted the wages and hours bill, the Wagner low-cost housing bill and a judiciary bill passed, as well as legislation to plug tax loopholes. The Wagner bill, meanwhile, was reported out of committee, and it was expected the senate would act upon it quickly. It would set up a federal housing authority with power to issue \$700,000,000 in bonds over three years to make loans for "low-cost" housing construction.

### 'Glory Be to God!'

DYING for weeks, the scheme to add to the number of justices of the Supreme court finally choked its last gasp and left this world. On a roll-call vote the United States senate voted to recommit the Robinson substitute for the President's original bill to the judiciary committee. The vote was 70 to 20, the most crushing defeat the President's legislation has yet suffered

at the hands of a house of congress.

In an agreement made at a session of the judiciary committee earlier, it had been decided to let the opposition senators write their own bill, an innocuous measure for "judicial reform" not dealing in any way with the Supreme court. Senator Barkley, the new majority leader, attempted to save the President's face by having the bill left on the calendar, but he never had a chance. When the roll-call came, even Senators Ashurst of Arizona and Minton of Indiana, two of the Supreme court bill's chief supporters, voted to recommit.

"Glory be to God!" said Sen. Hiram Johnson (Rep., Calif.) when the results of the roll call were made known. The applause that bellowed forth from the senators and gallery alike left no doubt that the veteran from California had voiced the sentiments of the great majority.

### Is This the Beginning?

AS JAPAN brought airplanes into action for the first time since the new Sino-Japanese crisis developed, and threw all available strength into a campaign against the Chinese Twenty-ninth army in North China, it was feared that the expected long Japanese military offensive had begun. While it was difficult to assimilate many conflicting and confusing reports, there was good ground for the belief that all attempts at a truce had failed, for a while at least.

The Japanese airmen rained bombs upon Chinese military barracks around Peiping, and pressed infantry and artillery attacks along the Peiping-Tientsin railway and the highway to the sea. Entrance of 200 Japanese marines into the Chinese Chapel district of Shanghai sent 20,000 men, women and children fleeing into the international settlement in search of protection. It was rumored a Chinese mob had killed a Japanese sailor, provoking Japanese reprisal.

Meanwhile the threat of real war continued to hover as the Chinese army refused to leave positions in and near Peiping, in what Japan considered violation of the Tientsin peace agreement.

### Madrid's Moat of Blood

THE Spanish government was defending Madrid against the insurgent forces in the most terrible battle of the entire civil war and the most important. It couldn't last; it was too furious. The whole

loyalist cause apparently rested on resisting this, the most vicious attack the rebels had yet made. Gen. Francisco Franco's army, under his personal supervision, was making advances, but at such loss of men that the cost might be too great.

Insurgents stormed loyalist entrenchments directly in the face of point blank machine guns. Losses were so terrible that thousands of wounded lay without food or water among thousands already dead and decaying in the hot sun. Infantry, tanks, cavalry and artillery were supplemented by airplane bombers.

In one salient 250,000 men were fighting, including the cream of both armies. The loyalist position was admittedly the most serious of the whole war, and upon the government's ability to withhold against the attack rested the fate of the best units in its army. It was reported that 20,000 Italian troops had joined the rebels for the battle.

While the Madrid conflict was in full sway, the insurgents sprang a surprise air attack on Barcelona. In the early dawn advance planes dropped flares which lighted up the city. Then came additional planes, dropping bombs on the easy target and turning machine guns on citizens who attempted to flee. At least 65 persons were killed and 150 injured.

### Low Interest for Farmers

BY A vote of 71 to 19, the senate overrode the President's veto of a bill extending for a year low interest rates on loans to farmers. It was a defeat even more crushing than the recommission of the court bill, and made the bill a law without the President's signature, for the house had previously passed it by a two-thirds majority over Mr. Roosevelt's veto.

Senator Barkley made a half-hearted attempt to stave off the overwhelming vote, and the defeat was accepted by many observers as an expression of resentment over Barkley's having been elected majority leader instead of Sen. Pat Harrison of Mississippi.

### Barkley, 38; Harrison, 37

SEN. WILLIAM H. DIETERICH of Illinois changed his mind at the last minute and today Alben W. Barkley, hard-fisted, blustering senator from Kentucky, is the majority leader of the United States senate, succeeding the late Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas. The vote was 38 for Barkley to 37 for Sen. Pat Harrison of Mississippi.

The conservative Democrats in the senate had been assured of 38 votes,

enough to elect Harrison, on the eve of the secret election. But that night Dieterich, apparently under pressure from the Democratic party organization in Illinois, begged Harrison to release his pledged vote, in order that the President's personal choice might head the party in the senate.

The slim victory by no means patched the obvious party rift. Even the administration admitted that the President's Supreme court bill was virtually dead even then. Vice President Garner visited Sen. Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, leader of the opposition forces, and invited the opposition to write its own bill.

### 40 Hurt in Strike Riot

ALTHOUGH the independent steel plants were back at work, there was still plenty of discord along the labor front. Forty persons were injured in a wild riot among pickets of the Steel Workers' Organizing committee (affiliated with C. I. O.), loyal workers and police at the Corrigan-McKinney plant of the Republic Steel corporation in Cleveland.

A mob of strikers hurled rocks from a hillside upon cars of employees parked in the valley about the plant. Loyal workers attempted to drive the strikers away, and at one time 500 of them rushed out

of the plant and set upon the pickets. Police tried to break up the fighting, relying chiefly on their tear gas guns. One striker was killed when a moving automobile, which was being stoned, got out of control and ran berserk through a picket line.

In Buffalo there was a serious food shortage because of a strike of 1,000 wholesale grocery truck drivers and 1,000 butchers at four meat packing plants. As C. I. O. and A. F. of L. unionists co-operated in their demand for closed shops, residents of the city were forced to motor to the country for butter, eggs and vegetables.

### 'Joe' Robinson's Successor

THE Democratic state committee of Arkansas nominated Gov. Carl E. Bailey to be the late Joseph T. Robinson's successor as United States senator. He is forty-two years old.

Traditionally, having been nominated by the state committee, Bailey is "as good as elected," but he may be opposed in the elections which he will call himself, September 14, by a Republican or by other Democrats running as independents. Rosser Venable, who opposed Robinson in the 1936 primary, had indicated that if Bailey were nominated he would run in opposition. The state Republican committee was reported seeking an opponent for the governor.

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### A Year of Reclamation

APPLICATIONS for grants under last year's agricultural conservation program covered 283,000,000 acres—two-thirds of the country's crop land—and represented an estimated 4,000,000 farmers, H. R. Tolley, agricultural adjustment administrator, reported. Nearly 31,000,000 acres were diverted from crops which deplete the soil; 53,000,000 acres received the benefit of soil-building practices.

Conservation payments for the year totaled \$32,323,303.11, benefit and rental payments \$235,744,264.42. Total expenditures by AAA during 1936 were \$357,338,617.30, including administering expenditures and liquidation of obligations outstanding when the Supreme court held sections of the original AAA unconstitutional.

### De Valera Is Re-elected

IF HIS party, Fianna Fail, can keep in power that long, Eamon de Valera will be president of the executive council of the Irish Free State for another five years. He was elected to the nation's highest office by a vote of 82 to 52 in the dail eireann (parliament). De Valera, in favor of severing all ties with Great Britain, won even the vote of the labor group, which does not endorse his party.

It was believed that De Valera would go ahead with legislation necessary to implement the new constitution approved in the plebiscite of July 1. He would in that case set up a senate and elect a president by popular vote, as the constitution provides. If De Valera is elected president, to serve seven years, political experts say he will virtually disappear from politics and his party will break up.

### Football Couldn't Save It

NOT even the excellence and popularity of Edward Patrick (Slip) Madigan's football teams could save little St. Mary's college at Oakland, Calif., from the auction block. It was "knocked down" to its security holders for \$411,150—the only bid—after it had failed to pay interest on its bonded indebtedness of \$1,370,500 since 1934. When Madigan came to St. Mary's from Notre Dame in 1921 it had 71 students. His football teams made it famous and built the enrollment up to 700. It was indicated he will remain as coach, at a reported salary of \$7,000 a year and 10 per cent of the gate receipts. Receipts last year were \$174,671.

### Japs Maul U. S. Women

ASSAULT upon two American women by sentries in the Japanese embassy in Peiping brought vigorous protests, both orally and in writing, from the United States embassy. The two women, Mrs. Helen R. Jones of Detroit and Miss Carol Lathrop of Washington, D. C., were walking through the embassy when sentries charged them from behind sandbag barricades. While one sentry kicked Miss Lathrop in the side, another held off Mrs. Jones with the flat of his bayonet. When the women were released they were roughly shoved, Mrs. Jones being forcefully kicked from behind.

### Static Wrecked Hindenburg

THE spectacular crash of the Zeppelin Hindenburg, killing 36 at Lakehurst, N. J., last May 6, was probably caused by an unseen spark of static electricity which jumped from the atmosphere to the frame of the dirigible. At least this is the theory of the board of inquiry which investigated the accident and reported to Secretary of Commerce Daniel C. Roper.

The experts considered every other possible cause—fire, sabotage, brush discharge of electricity from sharp points on the ship, broken propeller blade, radio transmitter spark, lightning and structural failure—and decided that their theory most nearly fitted the circumstances attending the disaster.

### A Citizen Takes His Pen

CRUSHING blow to the President's court program, delivered at the time it hurt most, was a letter written by Gov. Herbert H. Lehman of New York to Sen. Robert F. Wagner of that state. The letter, made public, revealed Governor Lehman's opinion "as a citizen of the state of New York" that the bill would be "contrary" to the "interests" of the people of the state. "Its enactment," the governor wrote, "would

Gov. Lehman

create a greatly dangerous precedent which could be availed of by future less well-intentioned administrations for the purpose of oppression or for the curtailment of the constitutional rights of our citizens."

### "Drake's Folly" Brought Forth the Great Oil Era

It was the Drake well—"Drake's folly"—drilled in 1859, that really was responsible for the beginning of the great oil era. Advancing prices of rock oil and a growing knowledge of petroleum and its uses in the production of kerosene, paraffin and lubricants, were developing a widespread interest in petroleum in America, and on Oil Creek, Pa., where oil seepages occurred, E. L. Drake, superintendent of the Seneca Oil company property, assembled his drilling equipment. After boring 33 feet, the drill fell into a crevice that made the total depth of the well 69½ feet. The next day, observes a writer in the Washington Star, that well was nearly filled with oil. There ensued the first race for leases and wild speculation in oil properties. By 1865 drilling had begun its march "from Manitoulin island to Alabama and from Missouri to central New York."

The early years of the Twentieth century were marked by great advances in oil-field development, in petroleum technology, in the application of petroleum in the arts, warfare and commerce, and in geologic methods of discovering oil fields. This black gold grew to be the second largest industry in the country, and in production, transportation, refining and marketing, some \$12,000,000,000 being invested in the United States. In one year, 1934, Italy produced as much oil as this country produced in half an hour.