BUSY WEEKS AHEAD SEEN FOR CONGRESS

Determined to recess for the political conventions by June 20, Congress is expected to have the busiest few weeks ahead which it has ever experienced. Since the new fiscal year begins on June 30, it will be necessary for Congress to act on at least 30 appropriation bills before that time—bills which involve many billions of dollars and several of which include provisions which are highly controversial. In addition, there are a number of bills pending to aid veterans and soldiers in the field which most congressmen feel are "musts" for this session.

However, it is not expected that the administration will ask for any additional legislation before the recess and Congress will probably clean up present bills in whirlwind fashion by keeping debate to a minimum. With consideration of the bill to end poll taxes apparently put aside for the present session, a threatened filibuster which would seriously have interrupted Congress' schedule has been side-tracked. Another measure, which was expected to be the subject of long debate in the House is the Cannon-Bankhead measure to provide $15,000,000 for the advertising of war bonds in country newspapers. But this too has apparently been pigeon-holed until after the recess.

If it weren't for the determination of most all members of Congress to get out of Washington and into the coming political battles, it is probable that the congressmen who favor stronger legislation to control labor and outlaw strikes would take advantage of the recent troubles in war plants to push through such legislation.

There is no doubt that public sentiment in favor of a law which would definitely end strikes was stirred up to a new pitch over the strike of foremen in airplane factories which was attacked by high officials of the army as a major blow to our invasion program.

In probably the most bitter statement ever made against strikers by a government official, Undersecretary of War Patterson, speaking of the loss of vitally needed planes caused by the strike said: "We have bombed German aircraft engine factories. They don't need to bomb ours."

An equally angry attack on the strikers, which brought immediate public demand for the end of such strikes, was made by Gen. Henry H. Arnold, chief of the army air forces, who said that the strike might affect invasion plans, that it would undoubtedly cost many lives, that it was helping the German air force to recover when it was reeling under our blows, and that it already had cost our air forces 250 P-51 Mustang fighters.

"These strikes," said General Arnold, "now make it impossible for me to meet my obligations with the air forces I have in the four corners of the world. They definitely tell me that I cannot furnish fighters where they are needed at the time they are needed."

Although the striking foremen quickly went back to work after General Arnold's statement, there is still serious danger that they may again cause trouble. For the foremen are trying to get a definite ruling on their status—as to whether they are considered in the employer or employee group. They maintain that they should not be considered part of management and should have the right to bargain collectively with management.

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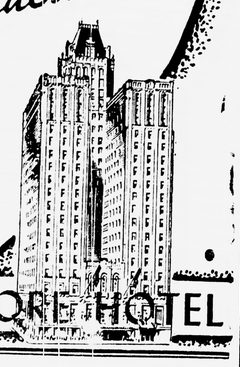
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