MEN AND AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON

★ National Topics Interpreted by WILLIAM BRUCKART ★

Washington—On the eve of the opening of a new congress, the seventy-fifth, there is great hullabaloo and clamor about social and economic legislation and particularly about the alleged necessity for constitutional amendments giving congress more power to deal with these problems. Much of the noise emanates from minorities, highly organized pressure groups, and it is difficult, therefore, to tell exactly what the attitude of the country, as a whole, may be.

Hullabaloo and Clamor

There are those both in congress and out who contend that the overwhelming vote for President Roosevelt's re-election constituted a mandate for immediate action on a number of these highly delicate and difficult questions. There are others whose contention is that the great vote given President Roosevelt was, in fact, a tribute to his personal popularity and that it was in no way connected with the various problems that are now before the country in individual capacity. Whatever the answer to these contending forces, the fact remains that we are due to hear something of them on the floors of the house and senate in the next few months.

One of the things about which we are hearing many, many words at the moment is a proposal for an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting child labor. It is the argument that such an amendment should be annexed to the Constitution and that it should give congress additional authority to enact legislation setting forth the details of this new type of prohibition.

Yet, while all of this raving and raging is going on, how many people are there who are aware of the fact that a constitutional amendment doing this very thing has been pending before the states for a little more than twelve years? How many people are there who recall that this amendment has been ratified by twenty-four states? Whatever their recollection is, it is a fact and it remains a fact that to all intents and purposes, enough states have refused to ratify the amendment to kill it off.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, being alive to what he considers the meaning of the recent huge vote for President Roosevelt, has attempted to revive the fight for ratification of that child labor amendment above mentioned. He has written to the heads of the various state and local groups urging them to work for favorable action on the amendment in the states that have heretofore rejected it.

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This brings up a new legal question. Stated succinctly, the question is whether a state legislature that has once rejected a proposition to amend the Constitution can reverse itself and approve the resolution after having once killed it. Mr. Green contends that this is possible. The American Bar association takes a contrary view.

New Legal Question

So, we are confronted with a problem within a problem and one that is likely to be distorted and twisted and misrepresented by those interests that have sought for a long time to make the Constitution appear outmoded. To become attached to the Constitution, an amendment must be ratified under the terms of the Constitution itself, by three-fourths of the states. That is thirty-six. Since twelve more states must ratify, there is likely to be a hard drive to gain some of the remaining states and to bring about reversal of positions already taken. It nearly always happens in "drives" that there is much loose mouthings and many unwarranted and unjustified statements. It probably will be so in this instance and the country must be on guard to sift the truth from the propaganda and must be prepared to make up its mind whether it desires to place in the Constitution a hard and fast rule that no child under eighteen years of age may be allowed to work gainfully.

For the sake of the record, herewith is the language of the proposed amendment that is now pending:

"The congress shall have power to limit, regulate and prohibit the labor of persons under eighteen years of age. The power of the several states is unimpaired by this article except that the operation of state laws shall be suspended to the extent necessary to give effect to legislation enacted by the congress."

From these words, it will be seen that an attempt is made to give congress greater power over the rights of states to legislate for themselves. Such a purport brings up in my mind the old question of whether a state or the federal government shall be supreme. There certainly are times, there are circumstances and there are conditions in which the federal government alone can deal with problems better than states can deal with them individually. But after all, conditions are not the same in any two states of the Union and it seems to me that the states ought to give careful thought to any proposition that takes away from them forever whatever rights are left to them under the Constitution. They ought to be free as far as they may be to handle their own problems on the basis of local requirements.

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The country cannot know definitely until President Roosevelt delivers his message to the new congress, dealing with the state of the Union, exactly what his position is going to be on the so-called social welfare problems of the country. This is a general category and involves such things as the so-called social security legislation and legislation giving the federal government greater control over private business. The two phases go hand in hand and as far as I have been able to discover, it will be impossible to deal with one without in some manner dealing with the other.

Social Welfare

For example, the present social security statutes have direct effect upon business through their taxation provisions. While basically they are designed to protect against the sufferings of unemployment and the destitution of the aged who are without resources, it can be readily seen that somebody must pay the bill. The Roosevelt administration's theory is that private employers, meaning business as a whole, shall be the logical source from which to draw the financial protection that is conceived to be necessary.

But in this theory there is involved very definitely the right of the federal government to enter into the fields that are now occupied or may be occupied by the states. It is largely a taxing proposition that the federal government must use if it is going to reach those classes able to pay. But the Constitution, federal laws and traditional practices of our people have built up certain lines of demarcation between federal and state rights. The question therefore becomes simply one that requires determination by the people whether they are going to allow the federal government to encroach further upon the fields that hitherto have been reserved for the states.

We hear much talk about a revival of NRA; a revival of it on a basis that will make it constitutional and one with provisions that will reach a greater percentage of business than was reached by the original NRA. Organized labor seems to be in favor of this proposition and naturally will exert considerable power in congress, but some lawyers among the representatives and senators tell me that they do not see how the purpose can be accomplished without a constitutional amendment.

On the basis of all of the information and opinion that I have been able to gather, my guess would be that before this session of congress is over something tangible in the way of a new constitutional amendment will be offered. It would seem, on the basis of the present trends, that it will be possible for the different schools of thought on this subject to get together only upon a constitutional resolution. My guess is, further, that it is utterly impossible for all of the groups and blocs to reach an understanding on legislation along these lines. Few of them are willing to compromise and without the attitude of compromise on highly controversial legislation, nothing except stalemates results.

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There are certain bits of evidence now to be seen that indicate a more determined position on the part of business itself. I think it could be said without equivocation that the business interests have been the target for political demagoguery in the last few years to a greater extent than ever in history. Of course, business has not come forth with clean hands. Yet, it is made to appear now that business has taken about all of the maltreatment to which it is entitled and it would seem, therefore, that the time has arrived for it to be given some consideration by the government which has supervision over it as well as us as individuals.

What About Business?

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On the Way to Madrid

A young beret-wearing Carlist, fighting with the rebel troops of General Franco to take Madrid, rests by the roadside and trades experiences with a grizzled, turban-wearing old Moor.

Pleasure Giving—

Talking to Advantage of Others and Joy to Ourselves in 1937

TALKING is the recognized medium of communication between persons who are together or who, being absent, use a telephone. It is unfortunate having such a marvelous medium at our command that we so often fail to put it to the use worthy of its value. It is possible to send a glow of happiness through the listener when we speak merited words of appreciation. It is possible to solace those in sorrow by words of comfort spoken from the heart. It is possible to make joy doubly gladsome by expressing our happiness in the good fortune of others. Through talking to our children we can spur them on to do fine things, or encourage them in worthy resolves. In short the good we can do by talking in the right spirit is inestimable. By talking in the right way we bring good to others and joy to ourselves.

It is when we swerve from the best use of the spoken word that we drag it down and harm both ourselves and our hearers. There is an expression "too much talk" which is significant of this very thing. The words speak for themselves, declaring that it would be advisable to cease saying the things we are. It is never said of good words. Of them we could say: Let us have more talk of the same sort, it is needed.

Have you ever considered how much is said when derogatory talk is going on? Words are spoken and reiterated over and over again, as if by repetition the unpleasant things would be increased. Unfortunately this is what happens. Unkind or unfriendly conversation, by some perverse twist of human nature, is sure to be repeated, and usually with embellishments. Either the one who repeats it cannot believe her ears, and wonders if anyone else knows about the unfortunate circumstances, or else she finds a strange pleasure in repeating slander. It may be the derogatory words are against someone she dislikes. It may be they are about a total stranger. If the talk was commendatory repeating it would foster fine things. Good things should be given frequent repetition.

We all could add so much to the pleasure and joy of living during the new year 1937, if we would set a watch on our talk, and by a wishful determination use this great means at our command to help others. It is one of the things that costs nothing and yet which can do such an endless amount of good. It is a way open to all alike.

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Black Walnut

Black walnut stumps are used in the manufacture of veneer. To be valuable a stump must have a wavy or irregular grain called "figure," which is most often present in the wood at the curved portion at the base of the tree where the roots extend out from the trunk. This figure, is discernible in the standing tree, is generally indicated by irregular bark ridges or by a rigid surface under the bark. Figured stumps are required to have a minimum diameter of 21 or 22 inches at the upper end and a length of at least 3 feet.

PAIN IN BACK

NEARLY DROVE HER CRAZY Got Quick RELIEF By Rubbing

Muscles were so sore she could hardly touch them. Used Hamlins Wizard Oil and found wonderful relief. Just rubbed it on and rubbed it in. Thousands say Hamlins Wizard Oil works wonders for stiff, aching muscles. Why suffer? Get a bottle for speedy comfort. Pleasant odor. Will not stain clothes. At all druggists.

HAMLINS WIZARD OIL

For MUSCULAR ACHES and PAINS Due to RHEUMATISM NEURALGIA LUMBAGO CHEST COLDS

READ THE ADS

DOLLARS & HEALTH

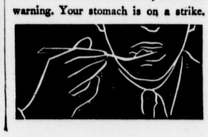
The successful person is a healthy person. Don't let yourself be handicapped by sick headaches, a sluggish condition, stomach "nerves" and other dangerous signs of over-acidity.

TAKE MILNESIAS

Milnesia, the original milk of magnesia in wafer form, neutralizes stomach acid. Each wafer equals 4 teaspoonfuls of milk of magnesia. Thin, crunchy, mint-flavor, tasty. 20c, 35c & 60c at drug stores.

HEARTBURN?

Its surprising how many have heart burn. Hurried eating, overeating, heavy smoking, excessive drinking all lead to heartburn. When it comes, heed the warning. Your stomach is on a strike.



SLEEP SOUNDLY

Lack of exercise and injudicious eating make stomachs acid. You must neutralize stomach acids if you would sleep soundly all night and wake up feeling refreshed and really fit.

MILNESIA FOR HEALTH

Milnesia, the original milk of magnesia in wafer form, neutralizes stomach acids, gives quick, pleasant elimination. Each wafer equals 4 teaspoonfuls milk of magnesia. Tasty, too. 20c, 35c & 60c everywhere.

35c & 60c bottles
20c tins

The Original Milk of Magnesia Wafers