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The Supreme Court

A nation just recovering from the shock of flood disaster was given a terrific wallop last week, when President Roosevelt sent his message to Congress, calling for re-organization of the Judiciary.

Members of Congress and the people generally were amazed and stunned. Their feeling of shock was the more intense because in the recent election campaign, the President had by silence, let them believe he had no intention of radically disturbing the Supreme Court.

Condemnation of his proposal to reorganize the court has come from nearly every quarter of the nation. A number of states have already telegraphed their representatives in Congress to turn thumbs down on his plan. Legislatures have also gone on record against any tinkering with the Supreme Court. But Congress is not to be stampeded by either President or citizens. This is as it should be. Calm dispassionate study of the situation, without undue haste, will probably result in strict adherence to the Constitution and its methods of approach.

Public Opinion

THE CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER, DEMOCRATIC, which supported Mr. Roosevelt in the campaign, warns that "down the road indicated by the President lies dictatorship and the end of constitutional Government." The "orderly" way to reach the President's objective is through a constitutional amendment.

DALLAS NEWS, INDEPENDENT DEMOCRAT.—". . . He (the President) is quite likely to be disappointed in results should Congress grant him the extraordinary powers that he asks. For in the whole history of the highest court, no justice has been so base as to suborn his interpretation of the law to his appointment of the court."

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, INDEPENDENT DEMOCRAT.—"We have supported Mr. Roosevelt heretofore in many of his purposes and objectives, but we certainly cannot go along with him on his latest proposal. We earnestly hope that Congress will have the intestinal fortitude to vote it down."

BALTIMORE SUN, INDEPENDENT DEMOCRAT.—"He avoided the issue when the voters were going to the polls. To put it conservatively, Mr. Roosevelt has been disengenuous with the people."

NEWS, GALVESTON, TEXAS, INDEPENDENT DEMOCRAT.—"Resign or submit to having your hands tied," he tells aged justices who have balked the New Deal program. Why does he not propose a Constitutional amendment authorizing Congress to retire them at that age?

KANSAS CITY STAR, INDEPENDENT, say "lies the obvious intent of the President to accomplish and confirm the New Deal philosophy through enlarging the personnel of the high court."

STAR, KANSAS CITY, INDEPENDENT.—"If this nation is to lodge in the Federal Government absolute powers over industry and commerce, that question should be decided by the people themselves. A constitutional amendment. A constitutional amendment should determine it, not the short cut of an increase in the size of the court in the specious guise of expediting justice."

COURIER EXPRESS, BUFFALO, INDEPENDENT—"We regard the Roosevelt proposal as the most unconscionable assault upon the integrity of the courts in our national record; and, if successful, destructive of public confidence in an uninfluenced and uncontrolled judiciary.

CHAIRMAN SUMNERS, OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY, COMMITTEE.—"We'll take their baby and look at it."

SENATOR JAMES HAMILTON LEWIS OF ILLINOIS, SENATE MAJORITY WHIP.—"There need be no fear of radical or revolutionary result put on the people."

SENATOR F. RYAN DUFFY (DEMOCRAT), OF WISCONSIN, voiced a view that was rather generally heard among Democrats: "I go along with the President as far as the Supreme Court," he said, "but when you get there you have a different matter, because its judges sit as a group."

SENATOR LYNN J. FRAZIER, NORTH DAKOTA LIBERAL REPUBLICAN, said he didn't "like the method," adding: "There is no reason to increase the size of the court."

SENATOR JAMES J. DAVIS, PENNSYLVANIA REPUBLICAN, said, "None of us want to see any change in our Government which is dictated mainly in a vindictive spirit."

Social Security

Beginning with last week's issue the Montgomery Press offered to those it serves a Question and Answer column on Social Security.

Through the column the Montgomery Press will answer inquiries from its readers on the Social Security law. All—workers, employers, housewives, others—are invited to use this service. It is not a legal service. It is an informational service. Answers will be authoritative.

The Social Security Board, as a special service to the Montgomery Press and its readers, has consented to pass on the accuracy of answers to questions on the social security law submitted to this paper.

Questions will be answered as quickly as possible in the order received. Address your inquiries to the Montgomery Press, Kensington, Maryland.

As another service to its readers each week the Montgomery Press will give authoritative answers to questions on the Social Security Law. By special arrangement, the Social Security Board has consented to pass on the accuracy of answers to questions on Social Security, which may be asked by employers, employees, and others, through the Montgomery Press. Address inquiries to The Editor, the Montgomery Press, Kensington, Maryland. Answers will be given here in the order in which questions are received. This is an informational service, not legal advise.—Editor.

Social Security—Question Box

Q.: What bookkeeping system does an employer have to use under the Social Security law?—P. B.

A.: An employer can use any system, provided the information recorded meets with certain minimum requirements fixed by the Treasury. See Art 412, Page 26, Regulations 91, covering Title VIII of the Social Security Act. Repeat your question and sign your name and address in full and a copy of the Regulations will be sent you by the Social Security Board at the request of The Press.

Q.: I pay my employes every Saturday. When I make my monthly tax return to the Treasury do I have to pay the taxes on the extra part of a week in the month?—G. E. D.

A.: Sec. 802(a) of the Social Security Act provides that the income tax on employes (Section 801) "shall be collected by the employer . . . from the wages as and when paid."

Q.: Please settle a dispute in our neighborhood. One of our neighbors said we would get nothing if my husband dies before he is 65 years of age. Is she correct?—Mrs. Wm. S.

A.: No. Your husband and his estate always will get more out of the old age benefits provisions of the Social Security law than he will have put in under Title VIII of the law which provides for an income tax on the wages of workers. Suppose he earns $1,000 before he dies. The tax would be one per cent, or $10. His estate would receive a lump-sum payment of three and a half per cent of his $1,000 wages, which would be $35.

Republicans Endorse Voting Machines

The Republican State Central Committee for Montgomery County at its recent meeting went on record as favoring the purchasing of voting machines for the precincts within the 7th and 13th Districts.

The committee feels that it would not only be an economical move but one that would insure honest elections within the suburban area. Many of the precincts will have to be divided unless voting machines are purchased and the dividing of these precincts will ultimately result in a cost to the county far exceeding the cost of buying voting machines. In the seventh district alone there are three precincts which have over twelve hundred voters and comparing with the 1934 election it would be necessary to county ballots well over thirty hours to obtain the results. It is not humanly possible to count this long and get accurate figures. Installation of voting machines would correct this, enabling an accurate count within a few minutes after the polls have closed.

Hawkins-Smith Wed At Gaithersburg

Miss Mary Hawkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Hawkins of Etchison, and Mr. Harlan Smith of Roanoke, Va., were married Wednesday evening, January 27, in Epworth Hall, Gaithersburg. The ceremony took place at 8 o'clock, with Rev. Herman Wilson of the Methodist Episcopal Church officiating. Miss Cordelia Hawkins, sister of the bride, sang, and the wedding marches were played by Mrs. Fillmore King, an aunt of the bride. The bride was dressed in blue crepe with black accessories. After March 1 Mr. and Mrs. Smith will make their home near Rockville.

FARMERS AGREE ON GRANARY STORAGE

Farm leaders agreed this week upon grain storage plans.

The agreement came after a two-day conference between national farm leaders and Secretary of Agriculture Wallace.

A committee to work with Congress in drafting suggested legislation consists of Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation; L. J. Taber, master of the National Grange; E. H. Everson, president of the National Farmer's Union, M. W. Thatcher of Chevy Chase, and A. S. Williams.

While the conference was unanimous in accepting the granary plan for surpluses in years of high production, the surplus to be sealed on the farm and held until it is needed to bolster prices in years of low production, fear is expressed by some of the committee that crop control, empowering the government to use the taxing power to provide benefit payments may not be constitutional.

The farmers also recommended Federal administration of soil conservation until 1940; strengthening of the marketing agreement provisions of the agricultural adjustment act; crop insurance and aid to tenant farmers.

Democrats Elect Ormonde Nichols

T. Ormonde Nichols of Bethesda was elected president of the United Young Men's Democratic Club of Montgomery County at the annual meeting held in Rockville Monday night.

Other officers elected were: Ernest Beall of Gaithersburg, corresponding secretary; Samuel E. Bogley, Bethesda, recording secretary; Edward C. Holmead, Silver Spring, treasurer, and J. Somervell Dawson, Jr., Rockville, parliamentarian. The Upper Montgomery County Young Men's Democratic Club was admitted to membership in the county group at the meeting.

Gypsy Dinner at Chevy Chase M. E. Church, Feb. 16th

A dinner, amid gypsy surroundings, will be given at the Chevy Chase Methodist Episcopal Church at 7:00 p. m., Tuesday, February 16th, with Brooke Johns and Maxine Mitchell, Washington's Cornelia Otis Skinner, heading the entertainment.

Reservations for this unique dinner are being taken by Mrs. Edward G. Latch, 9 Shepherd St., Chevy Chase, Md.

Circle No. 2 of the Church is sponsoring this affair annd the committee heads are Mrs. Edward G. Latch, Mrs. David K. Robinson, Mrs. Karl Plitt, Mrs. William L. Orem, Jr., and Mrs. Jane Wall, with Mrs. Lew Mohler as general chairman.

NEWS FLASHES

The Executive Board of the Woman's Democratic Club of Montgomery County has voted to donate $50 to the Red Cross for flood refugees.

In addition, the Woman's Democratic Club of Takoma Park has given $10 and the Woman's Democratic Club of Leland contributed $8.

A public hearing on the petition of a group of property owners in Silver Spring for reduction in street assessments for streets abutting their property will be held Friday at the Montgomery County Building in Silver Spring.

The Montgomery County Commissioners directed that $1,342.14 be paid to the Montgomery County Welfare Board for aid to dependent children and blind persons in February at their meeting Tuesday in Rockville.

The commissioners appointed Mrs. Ida Fulks as a bookkeeper in the County Accountant's office at a salary of $100 a month.

James E. McClintock, vice chairman in charge of finance of the American Red Cross, discussed the flood disaster, the funds needed and how relief is administered by the Red Cross at the weekly meeting of the Rockville Rotary Club.

The Bureau of Census today reported a total of 27,236 births in Maryland in 1935 compared with 21,182 death. The 1934 figures were 27,340 birth and 20,946 deaths.

The revelation that 1,370 "rubber checks" received by the commissioner of motor vehicles last year cost the office about $4,800 to collect, last night caused members of the Senate Finance Committee to seriously consider requiring applicants for license tags and titles to send in certified checks or money orders.

Bethesda Women Serving at Battery Park Club

Besides directing appeals for aid of flood sufferers, Bethesda women are active in serving for the flood needy.

The work is being directed by Mrs. E. F. Kohman, president of the Needlework Guild, and is sponsored by that organization. Assisting Mrs. Kohman are Mrs. John W. Slacks, Mrs. Robert Leopold and Mrs. Howard B. Richardson.

Some of the Edgemoor women who have been engaged on the sewing work during the last week are Mrs. John F. Cremen, Mrs. Robert F. Fleming, Mrs. Wright and Mrs. F. O. Smith, and from the neighborhood farther north Mrs. C. Martin, Mrs. George W. Laird and Mrs. C. J. King.

From Battery Park Mrs. Reginald B. Looker, Mrs. David Lumsden and Mrs. Jack Irwin have contributed their services.

Some of the other women who have been doing their bit in this work for the needy are Mrs. George B. Clendenin, Mrs. E. A. Dunn, Mrs. J. Reed Bradley, Mrs. John Yesair, Mrs. George F. Hane, Mrs. Ford Young, Mrs. George W. Bryan and Mrs. C. S. Moore.

Mrs. Walter R. Tuckerman unable to be present when the sewing is being done as well as many other residents of the Bethesda area, have made generous contributions of money to be used for the purchase of materials for the work.

Improvement of Conn. Ave. Nears

The Montgomery County Commissioners voted Tuesday to make an offer of $5,000 and relief from its $40,500 assessment to the Capital Transit Company for its right of way on Connecticut Avenue from the Chevy Chase Circle to Chevy Chase Lake.

The transit company holds title to a narrow strip of land in the center of Connecticut Avenue where its tracks laid prior to abandonment of the rail line and substitution of bus service last year. The Maryland State Roads Commission refuses to take action on improvement of Connecticut Avenue until title to the land is held clear by the county.

United action by the civic and business groups of Chevy Chase, the Bethesda and Kensington Chambers of Commerce in demanding improvement of the avenue prompted the commissioners to take immediate steps for the purchase of the right of way.

Mrs. A. L. Amiss, 87, Celebrates Birthday

Mrs. Angie L. Amiss of Chevy Chase Gardens celebrated her 87th birthday anniversary last week and in honor of the occasion her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Amiss, with whom she makes her home, invited a number of relatives and friends of the Amiss family to a tea. Mrs. Harry Amiss was assisted in the entertaining by her sister-in-law, Mrs. R. E. Amiss of Bethesda.

Mrs. Amiss was born in Nealsville, Md., in 1850. After her marriage she spent most of her life in Gaithersburg, where her husband was a teacher in the local high school. He later represented the Gaithersburg district in the Maryland House of Delegates.

Mrs. Amiss has been a resident of Chevy Chase Gardens for about 11 years. At her birthday tea on Sunday, she was presented with many gifts and flowers.