

# CURRENT EVENTS IN REVIEW

By Edward W. Pickard

## No New Taxes Soon, Says Senator Pat Harrison

SENATOR PAT HARRISON of Mississippi, chairman of the senate finance committee, on his arrival in Washington for the opening of congress gave out the welcome statement that no new general tax legislation would be pushed through during this session. Said he: "I don't look for it and I don't think it is in the realm of possibility."



Sen. Harrison.

Adoption of a manufacturer's excise tax was also "out," according to Harrison. He pictured an unusually short session of congress with appropriation bills and amendments to existing legislation the principal business to be handled.

In the senator's opinion a compromise on the bonus, always politically vexatious, would be reached and a presidential veto would be avoided. Harrison reiterated his opposition to the Townsend old age pension plan and said it would make no progress at the new session.

Many house members agreed with Harrison as to taxes. It wouldn't be good policy to pass such measures this session for there will be elections in 435 congressional districts in 1936.

Pat Harrison took a crack at the Liberty league and its legislative program offered to congress. The league, he said, was "ready to take over the legislative and judicial functions" of the national government and might be magnanimous enough to take over the executive branch as well. The senator called the league a "lobby" and described its statements as "plutocratic propaganda."

## Alcohol Control Valid, Says Federal Judge

FEDERAL JUDGE CHARLES J. BRIGGLE of Peoria, Ill., ruled that the Federal Alcohol Control administration act is constitutional, the decision being made in a test case brought by a Peoria distillery company. The alcohol administration closed the distillery, asserting it held no basic permit at the time the old code was outlawed by the Supreme court. The company held it did hold such a permit and applied for a new one.

Judge Briggle denied the plea for an injunction to force the administration temporarily to retract its decision on the application for a basic permit. In his decision he said:

"The former objections to the wrongful delegation of legislative authority with reference to the so-called 'code' provisions now has been obviated by this act, and while the plaintiff's position in some other respects is not without merit, yet the court is not convinced that sufficient doubt exists as to the constitutionality of the act to warrant the court in granting a temporary injunction."

## Ruling by McCarl Halts Relief Food Purchase

COMPTROLLER GENERAL J. R. McCARL issued an order that blocked the plans of the Federal Surplus Commodity corporation to buy surplus farm products for relief distribution. He held that the administration could not use the 30 per cent of gross customs receipts set aside for the AAA to buy farm products to be given to relief clients. In a letter to Secretary Wallace, McCarl said relief legislation and relevant statutes provided another way to handle such purchases.

It was believed McCarl's ruling would not affect AAA plans for purchases for diversion purposes and not for relief distribution. An offer has been made for purchases of surplus potatoes from the 1935 crop, to be diverted into industrial channels. Officials said, however, they did not expect growers to take advantage of this offer because of recently advanced prices for potatoes.

## Latest Returns From Literary Digest Poll

NEW DEALERS speak scornfully of the Presidential poll conducted by the Literary Digest, but everyone is eager to see what it reveals. The latest returns show a still further decline in New Deal popularity. Out of a total of 987,158 votes received, 577,631 answered negatively the question "Do you now approve the acts and policies of the Roosevelt New Deal to date?" This brought the negative percentage to the new high figure of 58.51 per cent. The last preceding percentage was 57.69.

Eleven of the thirteen southern states continued solidly New Deal. Only Florida and Oklahoma voted against it. The twelve middle-western farm states continued balloting more than 3 to 2 against the administration. The Rocky Mountain states, with the single exception of Utah, contrib-

uted substantial majorities against the New Deal, as did four of the six New England states, which were voting 3 to 1 against Roosevelt.

## Senate Munitions Probers to Hear J. P. Morgan

MEMBERS of the senate munitions committee announced that they would resume on January 7 their investigation of whether loans to the allies helped to get the United States into the World war, and the first witnesses will be J. P. Morgan and Thomas W. Lamont, of Morgan & Co. The committee plans to try for the enactment of broader neutrality legislation. The Morgan firm, which was fiscal agent for Great Britain during the war, has denied emphatically that it played any part in leading America into the conflict. Chairman Nye and other committee members have thought otherwise.

## Benson Named to Fill Out Schall's Term

ELMER A. BENSON, state banking commissioner of Minnesota, was appointed United States senator by Gov. Floyd B. Olson to complete the term of the late Senator Thomas D. Schall. He will serve until December 31, 1936. Mr. Benson has been a Farmer-Laborite since that party's birth and before that was active in the Nonpartisan league movement in Minnesota. He is forty years old.

The new senator is an advocate of public ownership of monopolistic industry and a backer of collective bargaining for labor. He has urged greater levies on higher incomes and inheritances, and favors immediate payment of the soldiers' bonus.

"I shall be very glad," Benson said, "to join the liberal bloc in congress in opposition to those who would turn the arms of the clock backwards and perpetuate a system callous to human suffering, which neither understands nor wants to understand the meaning of human happiness."

## Mississippi Valley Plan of Senator Norris

WITHOUT waiting for a ruling by the Supreme court on the validity of the Tennessee Valley authority act, Senator Norris of Nebraska, father of that and much other advanced legislation, has prepared a bill for a Mississippi Valley authority along the same lines as the TVA but immensely greater in scope. He intends to introduce the measure soon in congress. It would embrace more than half of continental United States, including all the vast plain between the Alleghenies and the western continental divide and from near the Canadian border to the delta of the Mississippi; only the Tennessee valley would be omitted from the plan.

Norris said it was an expansion of his former plan for a Missouri valley authority. Flood control would be its chief goal, he disclosed, but it also would direct the development of navigation, irrigation, hydroelectric power, soil conservation and reforestation. Like TVA it would be managed by a three-man directorate. The cost is not stated. Congress would vote funds from year to year as the work progressed.



Sen. Norris.

## Uruguay Severs Relations With Soviet Russia

DECLARING that all America is menaced with violence by the Communists, the Uruguayan government severed relations with the government of Soviet Russia; Minister Alexander Rinkin and his staff were handed their passports and the Uruguayan charge d'affaires was recalled from Moscow. The decree, signed by President Gabriel Terra and all members of the cabinet, asserted that Montevideo was the headquarters of Communists who were plotting uprisings in all South America countries, and quoted the Brazilian charges that the abortive rebellion there in November was instigated by the Soviet government and that the Montevideo legation was its intermediary.

Relations with Russia were broken on these three formal charges:

1. That the recent congress of the Third Internationale in Moscow agreed to push a communistic drive throughout South America, with Communists involved in the Brazilian uprising.
2. That the Soviet legation remitted checks for large sums to unidentified recipients, "providing foundation" for a presumption that the legation actively aided Communist plans.
3. That there was a direct connection between the Third Internationale and the Soviet government.

Dr. Jose Espalter, Uruguayan foreign minister, said:

"We have proof that Montevideo was the center of a gigantic Soviet expansionist plot and that Rinkin was organizing a revolution in Uruguay for next February or March. Uruguay is the only South American nation that recognized the Soviet Russian government."

## Huge Deficit in First Half of Fiscal Year

WITH the final week not reported, the treasury came to the end of the first half of the current fiscal year with receipts behind expenditures by about \$1,786,000,000. For every dollar collected in taxes and other revenues since the financial year began July 1, \$1.95 had been spent. Of the latter, \$1.10 went for the regular general expenditures of department and bureau and 85 cents was for relief and other emergency purposes.

These factors, coupled with prospective expenditures, caused an increase of \$1,843,000,000 in the gross federal public debt. The debt rose from \$28,700,000,000 last July 1, to \$30,543,000,000 on December 23.

For the same period, all categories of receipts, except processing taxes, showed increases over a year ago. Total receipts were \$1,865,000,000 compared with \$1,811,000,000 in the same period of the 1935 fiscal year.

Against the public debt total, the treasury had a balance of \$2,291,000,000 in cash on hand, which included \$143,000,000 of its gold profits resulting from the revaluation of the dollar, and \$232,000,000 from seigniorage charges on the coinage of newly mined silver.

The working balance totaled \$1,995,000,000, much larger than usual because some \$900,000,000 was borrowed to meet the wintertime costs of the relief and recovery programs.

## Chance for European War Seems to Increase

WAR clouds over Europe were growing denser and blacker during the Christmas holidays when all the Christian world was supposed to be singing "Peace on Earth, good will toward men." Under the skillful guidance of Anthony Eden, the new British foreign secretary, a solid front against Italy was being built up. There was no present talk of further sanctions against Mussolini, but it is expected added penalties will be put in force late in January. Meanwhile the general military and naval staffs of Great Britain and France concluded conversations which were declared "satisfactory," meaning that those nations were prepared to stand by each other in case Hitler makes what Prime Minister Baldwin called "a mad dog attack." In the capitals of other members of the League of Nations similar plans were being laid by military and naval attaches.



Anthony Eden

Turkey came into line with the other presumptive opponents of Italy, but it is reported to have made a suggestion that France doesn't like. This is that it be permitted to fortify the Dardanelles, the strait between Europe and Asiatic Turkey which was demilitarized under the treaty of Lausanne after the World war. The Turks also, according to Paris advices, ask the eventual return of the island of Rhodes in the Aegean sea, which has been under Italian sovereignty since 1923.

Eden is a firm believer in the League of Nations and, though he is moving with caution, is determined to bring Italy to terms through the sanctions provided the other members of the league give the necessary support. The British government certainly doesn't want to have made a suggestion that France doesn't like. This is that it be permitted to fortify the Dardanelles, the strait between Europe and Asiatic Turkey which was demilitarized under the treaty of Lausanne after the World war. The Turks also, according to Paris advices, ask the eventual return of the island of Rhodes in the Aegean sea, which has been under Italian sovereignty since 1923.

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# Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted by William Bruckart

National Press Building Washington, D. C.

Washington.—It was in the sultry days of the summer of 1914, it will be remembered, that

**Waiting for a Spark** Archduke Ferdinand was laid low by an assassin's bullet in a remote province of Austria. At the time, the assassination was front page news for most of the newspapers. Its real import was not generally recognized. Nevertheless, from that incident sprang the greatest war the world has ever known.

Within a few months of 22 years after the assassination at Sarajevo the world sees a situation in Europe where another such incident would have consequences just as violent. At the present time, ammunition dumps all over Europe are waiting for a spark to set them off. It may be an accidental spark or it may be a spark deliberately cast into that powder keg. I do not mean to say that it will happen but I do wish to emphasize that at no time since the Archduke's assassination has there been a field so fertile for the promotion of a gigantic war as the present.

It may seem, and it undoubtedly does seem to many, that the dangers inherent in the European situation at present are afar off. But, it can be recalled that there were those in this country who, as late as 1916, said the European war was 3,000 miles away. Before it ended, however, 5,000,000 American boys and young men had been drafted to be thrown into that European cauldron. It may happen again.

While there is no immediate possibility of the United States getting tangled up in the European political problems which spring from hostilities between Ethiopia and Italy, those who know history cannot fail to agree with the statement that it is never too early to plan for preventing war. For that reason, then, I believe almost every family in the United States has a stake, either directly or indirectly, in one of the problems with which congress must deal. This legislation is known by the short and rather indecorous title of the neutrality policy. It is, indeed, just that, but the point I seek to make is that the title does not convey its full importance or the full lives of each of us. If a policy can be worked out, a policy that is effective, obviously our chances for remaining out of any hostilities in Europe—or in Asia for that matter—are certainly much better. I do not know and I do not believe anybody can say accurately that it is impossible to develop a neutrality policy that will be fool-proof; or that will guarantee to us the removal of possible entanglements, or that will prevent us from stubbing our toes and falling into the midst of the mess. It seems to me, however, that we ought to try.

A year ago about this time, congress enacted a bill which was designed to prevent the shipment of war materials to any belligerent nation or nations. It was mandatory. The President was directed by congress to lay an embargo against the shipment of arms, ammunition of war to any countries engaged in hostilities regardless of whether their claims were right or wrong. We have had some experience with the force of that legislation already and it has not been without its embarrassing and difficult phases. Now, however, it is proposed to revamp that legislation which was admittedly of a temporary character and is due to expire by limitation of law on February 29. Congress has been told rather definitely, I think, that this country wants to remain out of someone else's war. The President has the same idea. So, instead of allowing our citizens to run wild, ship anything and everything, make contracts with the countries now engaged in war or those that may be engaged later, it is proposed that we have a permanent policy embodying whatever principles may be found wisest to protect us from ourselves and prevent us from throwing ourselves again into such a volcano of molten lava as any present-day war would be.

The problem is not as simple as it appears on the surface. When congress enacted the present temporary neutrality legislation, it provided that the embargoes, when and if laid, must apply to all. It gave the President no discretionary power to determine whether we wanted to use these embargoes as a weapon against one nation while aiding another. Mr. Roosevelt, in accepting the original legislation, said publicly that he believed he should have such discretionary power. This was in line with the conclusions of the Department of State which necessarily must be the President's adviser on matters of this kind.

Congress was criticized in many quarters when it made the embargoes applicable to all belligerents. Now, however, if we may judge from the word that comes to Washington, sentiment seems to be swinging in the other direction and there certainly is a considerable, if not a majority, sentiment for use of the mandatory provision as distinguished from the extension of discretionary authority to the President. To say it another way, the sentiment appears to be in favor of making the embargoes applicable to all belligerent powers and not just to one

nation whose claims our government may believe to be unjust.

It is safe to say that before congress determines definitely what the permanent policy shall be, there will be bitter debate. In examining the problem, it is to be remembered that when the government lays an embargo against all nations at war it takes away possibilities of tremendous profit. This profit accrues to those industries by which sustaining war materials are produced. Neutrality legislation, therefore, may prove costly, not as costly as war, perhaps, but nevertheless a costly action. Hence, there is no question that many lines of commerce and industry are going to be drawn into the preliminaries of this decision.

To explain how disturbing to certain lines of industry this thing can be, it is only necessary to recall events of the last month or so in connection with the sanctions proposed by the League of Nations. The League has tried to force the defetrag by the use of embargoes, which is what sanctions are. The League proceeded with considerable vigor until it reached the question of oil. Immediately, shoes began to pinch and the feet that were pinched were in every country where oil is found, even our own.

As a result, they have led the oil horse up to the watering trough from a half dozen different approaches but they have not yet been able to make him drink. Our own oil interests have not been quiescent. If the league bans oil shipments to Italy, the United States, which is not a member of the league, obviously will do likewise. Profits of the oil companies and the hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of shareholders would be cut.

Further, Mussolini has announced publicly that imposition of the embargo upon oil would mean war. He did not say with whom he would go to war but the British and the French know and they are getting ready. The British has its entire home fleet in the Mediterranean and the British men of war have been drilled thoroughly anew in the science of manning their big guns.

So it is seen how delicate this whole circumstance is. It is plain that when congress deals with the neutrality legislation, it is moulding a pattern over which there will be undoubtedly an alignment among our citizens as sharply drawn as though it were a purely domestic question. There will be those, of course, who favor a permanent policy which will make it mandatory upon the President to apply embargoes against shipments of anything usable in war and treat all nations engaged in war alike. There will be set off against this sentiment those who think the Chief Executive should have discretionary power and that the government should not be placed in a strait-jacket from which it cannot extricate itself without congressional action. Whatever the conclusions may be and whatever form the new legislation takes, it remains as one of the most important policies to come before congress in many moons. Whatever is done necessarily will be a precedent toward which future generations will look as time goes on whether civilization becomes more enlightened or not.

The Treasury, operating on a fiscal year that runs from July 1 to June 30, has just passed the half-way point in the current 12-month period. The figures show that its receipts are lagging far behind the expenditures and demonstrates the necessity for cutting down the federal outgo unless the nation desires to see its public debt go far beyond any total hitherto conceived.

The official Treasury statement as of December 30 shows that the government has spent approximately \$1,850,000,000 more in the first six months of this fiscal year than it received in taxes and other revenue.

In consequence of this deficit, the public debt is now approximately \$30,600,000,000, the highest point it ever has reached and that total is roughly two billion dollars higher than the public debt as it stood last July 1 when the present fiscal year began.

Since the expenditures were so much larger than the receipts, the Treasury has been operating on a basis that, reduced to the minimum, shows an outgo of about \$1.96 for every \$1.00 collected in revenue during the first half of the current year.

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**Many Arson Fires** In the United States today a house or other structure is usually set on fire—for insurance, excitement or revenge—on an average of once every 105 minutes, despite the fact that arson fires are usually easy to detect and the punishment is severe. In six states conviction calls for the death penalty and, in 14 others, it results in either life imprisonment or a 20-year sentence.

**Washington Monument Dimensions** The Washington monument is 555 feet 5 1/2 inches in height. The base is 65 feet square, and the top is 34 feet 6 inches square.

## PRETTY STENCILED POT HOLDER SET

By GRANDMOTHER CLARK



These two little Sunbonnet Girls seem to be having some important secrets. They both work in the kitchen and are talking over their day's experience. They are the little pot holder girls, a cute and novel holder to have in your kitchen. The two dresses are the pot holders and when hanging up snap into place under the bonnet. Finished size 11 by 14 inches.

This stamped and tinted piece of material, No. 1002, will be mailed for 15 cents. This is to be made up and worked in simple outline stitch. Address Home Craft Co., Dept. A, Nineteenth and St. Louis, Mo. Inclose a stamped addressed envelope for reply when writing for any information.

## Still Coughing?

No matter how many medicines you have tried for your cough, chest cold or bronchial irritation, you can get relief now with Creomulsion. Serious trouble may be brewing and you cannot afford to take a chance with anything less than Creomulsion, which goes right to the seat of the trouble to aid nature to soothe and heal the inflamed membranes as the germ-laden phlegm is loosened and expelled.

Even if other remedies have failed, don't be discouraged, your druggist is authorized to give you Creomulsion and to refund your money if you are not satisfied with results from the very first bottle. Get Creomulsion right now. (Adv.)

**Sound Mind** The sounder the mind the more likely it is to direct the actions of the body with efficiency.

## Nervous, Weak Woman Soon All Right

"I had regular shakings spells from nervousness," writes Mrs. Cora Sanders, of Paragould, Ark. "I was all run-down and cramped at my time until I would have to go to bed. After my first bottle of Cardui, I was better. I kept taking Cardui and soon I was all right. The shaking quit and I did not cramp. I felt worlds better. I gave Cardui to my daughter who was in about the same condition and she was soon all right."

Thousands of women testify Cardui benefited them. If it does not benefit YOU, consult a physician.

**PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM**  
Removes Dandruff, Stops Hair Falling, Imparts Color and Beauty to Gray and Faded Hair.  
Floreston Shampoo—Ideal for use in connection with Parker's Hair Balsam. Makes the hair soft and fluffy, 50 cents by mail or at druggists. Hisecc Chemical Works, Patchogue, N. Y.

**Rheumacide**  
Indicated as an Alternative in the Treatment of RHEUMATIC FEVER, GOUT, Simple Neuralgia, Muscular Aches and Pains.  
At All Drugists  
Jas. Baily & Son, Wholesale Distributors, Baltimore, Md.

## No Need to Suffer "Morning Sickness"

"Morning sickness"—is caused by an acid condition. To avoid it, acid must be offset by alkalis—such as magnesia.

## Why Physicians Recommend Milnesia Wafers

These mint-flavored, candy-like wafers are pure milk of magnesia in solid form—the most pleasant way to take it. Each wafer is approximately equal to a full adult dose of liquid milk of magnesia. Chewed thoroughly, then swallowed, they correct acidity in the mouth and throughout the digestive system and insure quick, complete elimination of the waste matters that cause gas, headaches, bloated feelings and a dozen other discomforts.

Milnesia Wafers come in bottles of 20 and 48, at 35c and 60c respectively, and in convenient tins for your handbag containing 12 at 20c. Each wafer is approximately one adult dose of milk of magnesia. All good drug stores sell and recommend them. Start using these delicious, effective anti-acid, gently laxative wafers today. Professional samples sent free to registered physicians or dentists if request is made on professional letterhead. Select Products, Inc., 4402 23rd St., Long Island City, N. Y.

**MILNESIA WAFERS**  
35c & 60c bottles • 20c tins  
The Original Milk of Magnesia Wafers