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"DOWN THE HATCH"

For generations, American elections have been run by politicians—men interested in hanging onto or getting into public office. Last week, this time-hallowed fact seemed about to perish by act of Congress.

In the last Congress, Senator Carl A. Hatch, conservative New Mexico Democrat, introduced a bill to "take relief out of politics" by forbidding political coercion of, or solicitation of political funds among relief workers. The bill failed. Last winter, Hatch re-introduced his handiwork, now expanded to ban political activity by Federal jobholders as well as reliefers. The Senate passed the bill, but House New Dealers, well aware of its political implications, buried it in committee for four months.

A fortnight ago, however, under the constant pounding of the Republican press and the pressure of anti-third term Congressmen, the Hatch bill poped up again in the House. There amid uproarious scenes, a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats swept it through. Next day, without a single negative vote, the Senate accepted House amendments. As sent to the White House, the act would:

(1) Prohibit any person from coercing any other person voting in a Federal election or primary.

(2) Outlaw the use for political purposes of any funds appropriated by Congress for relief.

(3) Ban the promising of any job or wage created by Congress for the purpose of winning a Federal nomination or election.

(4) Forbid any Federal officeholder below the rank of policy-making department heads and their immediate assistants from using his "official authority" in a Federal election or nomination.

In this form, the bill represented a major political upheaval. It meant that promises of patronage, the glue with which every politician holds his machine together, were henceforth illegal. It meant that the vast army of Federal employees—postmasters, district attorneys, revenue collectors and thousands of others—could no longer make compaign speeches, solicit campaign funds or participate in national conventions. It meant, said newspaper wags, the major portions of the American party system had gone "down the Hatch." It might also mean, according to some sincere critics of the measure, a violation of civil liberties in that it would hamper the "free speech" of office-holders.

Advertised purposes of the act were (1) to "take relief out of politics" and (2) to advance the cause of "clean government." That it might do both seemed entirely possible; but few doubted that the motives behind the bill were themselves purely political. By destroying the aid the New Deal, like all other political parties, had expected from its ranks of jobholders, the act seriously damaged Roosevelt's chances of dominating the next Democratic convention and put another spoke in the third-term wheel.

Any doubts that the Hatch bill was a political coup were erased by scenes following its passage.

Senators streamed to congratulate the man generally credited with forcing the measure through—Vice President John N. Garner. The Hatch bill was the only piece of legislation ever publicly endorsed by the Vice President, and its success had plainly enhanced his chances for the 1940 Democratic nomination.

At the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, meanwhile, the President was in an uncomfortable spot. If he signed the bill, he would seriously injure his own party; if he voted it, he would lay himself open to charges of fighting "clean government." As all Washington waited the decision, the prediction was that Roosevelt would swallow the distasteful pill. Which he did and signed the measure.—The Pathfinder.

Works Projects Administration officials have informed Congress they intend to cut about 11,000 administrative employees off the rolls in the next two or three months.

Dallas Dort, Assistant WPA Commissioner, told a House appropriations subcommittee in testimony made public Aug. 2, that the WPA administrative personnel would be cut from 30,500 to about 20,000 by the end of September.

U. S. factories manufacture $15 worth of needles a minute.

FROM WASTE TO HASTE

J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C., Aug. 7—Looking back upon the past seven months that Congress was engaged in doing its "daily dozens" there is very little in the way of a satisfactory record of current history.

The great majorities of our citizens cling to the old-fashioned belief that the country's interests should be put ahead of party politics. That's the hitch!

During the first six months of the session the principal interest of members seemed to center in getting across appropriation bills, and the selfish desire to get "the share" that belonged (?) to their State or district reflected very little to the credit of the legislative groups.

The wastes are larger than in previous years. The New Deal cannot be accused of being wholly to blame, because the political spoils have been divided.

Our statesmen have been grabbing the taxpayers money and spending it for "cats and dogs" and other fruitless purchases.

The waste this year has been so great that, as July passed, there was impatient haste to adjourn, in order to evade the responsibility of acting on several very important measures, including labor laws, housing and other "pets" of the Administration, or "pets" of the opposition.

A good deal is said, and published, about financial assistance to "self-liquidating" projects. This is a new substitute scheme to lend Government money in a way that wouldn't show up in the budgets. It's a flimsy alibi to cover up wastes.

So far as the row between Congress and the President is concerned the latter got the worst of it in most instances. But that's another story.

* * * *

Why This Investigation?

When the House of Representatives suddenly voted to investigate the National Labor Board people all over the country began to wonder what had happened.

The explanation is found in facts that show the determination of a lot of politicians to prevent any kind of reform in the labor laws. The Wagner Act, Labor Board, Wage-Hour, and other legislation were all enacted as experimental measures, to prevent strikes, walk-outs and all labor troubles, and to increase stability in employment, and strength in collective bargaining between Union workers and employers.

The enmity between the two great labor groups never yielded to persuasions in behalf of peace—or even a valid truce. CIO was charged—with plenty of evidence—to be the favorite, as well as dictator to the Labor Board. AFofL made bitter charges to that effect.

Amendments were proposed in Congress to labor laws. They were "stalled"—all ticketed to be "put off until next winter." Suddenly the log-jam broke, and an investigation was ordered by angry Congressmen.

That seems to be all that is necessary to start the log-a-rolling, and clear up the jam. It looks as though the country may look forward to general revisions that will make labor war fairer to those most concerned, viz: 1-The Public. 2-Employees. 3-Employers.

* * * *

Not Wholly Neutralized

Exports of war materials to foreign countries have nearly doubled in the past three years. Increases are in exports of air-craft material, iron, steel, petroleum, and other major products.

* * * *

Food Stamps For Relief

Experiments made in Rochester, New York, and Seattle, Washington, have convinced the U. S. Department of Agriculture that the new plan of issuing food-stamps has made it possible for many underfed families on relief to secure essential food supplies. Orange stamps issued to reliefers, charged against their relief checks and good for purchase of foodstuffs in retail stores, are now supplemented by blue stamps given to reliefers in 50 per cent of the value of orange stamps, and good for the purchase of foods on the current surplus lists.

Holders of these stamps have used them, and the government officials declare that it is a way that guarantees our poor citizens enough to eat. One hundred cities are to be supplied with the stamps, and included in the plan. This indicates that the same benefits are likely to be extended to the aid of persons on relief in every part of the country.

* * * *

Sucker-Proof Markets

The recent stock market boom has been roundly applauded by the same Federal officials in Washington who have been accused of "trying to ruin the investment market." The brain-trusters have always insisted that they intended to make the markets okeh, and now, they claim that the lambs are less likely to be fleeced.

FARM ACCIDENT DEATH TOLL HIGH

More people are killed in the course of farm work than in any other one industry, according to the 1939 edition of Accident Facts, the National Safety Council's statistical yearbook.

The agricultural accident death total in 1938 was 4,300, or 26 per cent of the all-industries total of 16,500.

There were 4,000 accident fatalities in trade and service industries, 2,000 in manufacturing and 1,500 in transportation and public utilities, 2,000 in manufacturing and 1,500 in mining, quarrying, oil and gas well operations.

In addition to the deaths there were 1,350,000 work accident injuries. The total of deaths and injuries represented an economic loss of about $650,000,000, the Council estimates.

However, 1938 deaths were 13 per cent fewer than in 1937, a saving of 2,500 lives.

Farm machinery and handling of animals are two of the largest contributing factors in our farm accident problem. A yard cluttered with tools and trash is a good place to get crippled or killed. The right place for tools when not in use is in a tool house. If there is no tool house, the farm implements and tools should be fenced off so that people and animals won't run into them.

It doesn't take a heavy weight to break a skull when the weight drops a few feet. Many chimneys on farm houses are loose with bricks lying in such a position that a small wind or the swaying of a branch could easily dislodge them and kill any person who may be underneath.

Doctors' bills and funerals run into money faster than lumber and nails do. Yet, an inspection of many hay mows would reveal the fact that only about one-half of the necessary lumber has been used to cover the mow floor, and as the farmer nears the end of his hay, he is quite apt to fall through the floor with serious consequences.

Old, weak, sway-backed buildings add to the graveyard population. Such buildings are apt to collapse when the children are climbing around, or any other time.

AUTO FATALITY RISE SPURS SAFETY WORK

Safety workers have been moved to redouble their educational and preventive work as a result of word from the National Safety Council that traffic fatalities throughout the country went up 1 percent in June over the same month last year, the first time this has happened in the 20 months since the unbroken improvement began in November, 1937. The June total was 2,330, just 20 more than last year.

The remarkable showing from November, 1937, to April of this year, was made in spite of increased travel. It was the failure to overcome this added hazard that sent the May and June totals up. In May alone there was 10 per cent more travel this year than last.

It is significant, the Council report shows, that the June increase was credited wholly to rural areas Cities reduced fatalities 8 per cent but this was offset by a 7 per cent increase on rural highways. Increases in rural fatalities in April and May also offset reductions in the cities. This is due, it is explained, partly to the fact that there is more fast driving on the open country roads, and to the lack of organized safety work in these areas.

Mr. McNutt, who suggested the denunciation of the Japanese treaty, is reputed to have based this policy on the theory that Japan in its present militaristic set-up would respect this brandishing of the big stick. Messages from Tokyo do not bear out the theory. No words could have been softer than Secretary Hull's, but it has dawned upon the Japanese that the American condition precedent to a new commerial treaty is a mending of the Japanese Army's ways in China, and Japanese spokesmen are talking about reprisals instead of a change of conduct. The Japanese Army, in other words, seems to be bent upon forcing an economic war with America.

It goes without saying that the Japanese would feel the pinch of such an economic war with by far their greatest war material supplier much more than Americans would.

Two carats worth of diamonds come from Sierra Leone—each minute!

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"It is a silly goose that comes to a fox's sermon."

AUGUST

13—The Fridtjof Nansen arctic expedition returned, 1896.

14—United States troops entered Pekin, 1900.

15—Ethel Barrymore, famous actress, born, 1879.

16—The last French troops were withdrawn from the Ruhr, 1923.

17—The first food inspection act was passed, 1890.

18—Iron was first smelted by electricity, 1909.

19—The Constitution sunk the Guerriere, 1812.

Forerunner of Ice Cream Traced to China of 1275

The early history of ice cream is fragmentary and the name of the actual originator is not known. It is recorded that Alexander the Great, the Ptolmeys and Julius Caesar preferred "iced drinks," made with wine and snow, resembling our water ices, writes a correspondent to the Philadelphia Inquirer.

The writings of Marco Polo mention certain frozen sweets he enjoyed in China in 1275. Italian records indicate a thriving ice cream trade there in the Fifteenth century and Catherine de Medici, when she moved from Florence to France, took her own geletaria or freezing plant with her. The first printed record of it in England appeared in 1769.

Legends differ on its introduction into America, but credit most generally is given to the Virginia Cavaliers. In 1777 what is probably the first advertisement for ice cream appeared in a New York paper.

During the administration of James Madison, his wife, Dolly, served it frequently at her levees. In 1832 a Negro confectioner of Philadelphia, Augustus Jackson, offered ice cream for sale at a dollar a quart. Several accounts claim that this man and the chef at the White House during the Madison administration are the same.

Dogs Have Same Number of Teeth

Every dog, regardless of size or breed, has the same number of teeth. Even in the Pekingese and bulldog, with their smashed-in faces, though the teeth may be crowded, crossed, and crooked, there are always 42, and they are always in the same groups and locations. All have four canine, or fangs, two in each jaw, one in each corner, with six incisors, or cutting, teeth between them; 18 pre-molars and eight molars or grinders.

The canine teeth are the dog's weapons, with which he slashes his opponents, and they also help the incisors tear the carcasses of his kill or large chunks of meat.

It needn't be a great triumph to do your soul good. Think how the heart rejoices when at last you get a tormenting fly.

PRISONER ESCAPES!

GUARD KILLED BY BRITISH OFFICER IN DARING ESCAPE FROM GERMAN PRISON CAMP

Hunted by all the police in Germany, he found refuge in the heart and home of this lovely little girl of the Berlin streets . . . Calmly, bravely she faced the police and lied for him—lied for an enemy of her country whom she had known but one short night . . . Not even the threats of certain death could break her devoted loyalty to him.

You'll be held breathless by this exciting story of escape from a German prison camp. You'll be thrilled and fascinated by this romantic girl who took chances to hold the only tender, sincere love ever she knew . . . No wonder the late O. O. McIntyre called it "The most absorbing book I've read in five years."

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Collector Purchases First Bill of Rights

Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach of Washington, D. C., has acquired the original manuscript of the bill of rights, which the congress of the United States assembled to consider 150 years ago.

The noted collector of rare books and manuscripts has declined to indicate from what source it had come into his possession.

It was on March 4, 1789, that the congress assembled in New York city, then the national capital, to consider the first 12 amendments proposed for the Constitution. Of these original 12, the first two concerned the number of members in the house of representatives and the manner in which their salaries could be altered. These two were rejected, so that Article III became the first amendment, and so on down the list to Article XII, which became the tenth amendment—the first 10 constituting what the world has since known as the bill of rights.

The manuscript acquired by Dr. Rosenbach has been placed on display at Philadelphia. Written on parchment, it bears the signatures of Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, then speaker of the house, and of John Adams, then vice president of the United States and president of the senate. The document was attested by John Beckley and Samuel A. Otis, respectively, clerk of the house and secretary of the senate.

The surest way to end freedom is to give too much freedom to the wrong kind of people.

TYDING'S HAT IN THE RING

Millard E. Tydings, Maryland's senior Senator, on Friday became a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination next year.

He entered the lists coincident with the indorsement of his candidacy by the Calvert Club, an organization which had helped him to his victory over Congressman David J. Lewis in the Senatorial primary last year.

Announcement of the indorsement had the Senator's full approval, according to club members.

Col. Alvin K. Baskette, retired Army officer and club president, said the Senator had authorized issuance of the "first 10,000" Tydings-for-President stickers, which made their debut in Baltimore Saturday.

Just As Good

When the World War was in blossom the demands for cotton multiplied because cotton was a base provided in the manufacture of explosives. Foreign fighting nations are not restricted from buying our cotton. In fact the U. S. is willing to pay part of the export tax. The drawback is that smart foreigners have developed substitutes for cotton "just as good" for the manufacture of explosives.

Note how often kids say: "I can beat you." There is the whole story of life and progress and the fun of it.

Scientists claim that the average man in the course of an average day, speakes 20 words a minute.