Bruckart's Washington Digest

Wisdom of Constitution Is Seen In Revolt of House on Spending

Not Politics Alone Involved in Congress' Opposition to President's Spending Policy; Response to Will of People at Last Reflected in Members' Action.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART
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WASHINGTON.—The Constitution of the United States—that document that has served us so well notwithstanding the razzing given it by enlightened thinkers of recent years—says in Article 1 that "all bills for raising revenue shall originate in the house of representatives." It further says with an emphasis that, "no moneys shall be drawn from the treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law."

There is, of course, nothing at all new in the above paragraph. It is important, however, to remember those provisions of the basic law of our nation for in them again we see wisdom and a rather clear understanding of what happened just before congress adjourned its first session. It is as though the authors of the Constitution were laying a prophecy when one considers the recent revolt of the house of representatives against President Roosevelt's spending-lending program. (And, by the way, during the debates on this program it became known as the "splending" program among those terrible people who opposed it.)

I assume that throughout the land there was much talk about the revolt against the President's policies for current spending as being purely politics. I have heard from many sections of the country, and the story was the same; politics. That is only partly true. Obviously, the house members had their weather eye on the political aftermath of what they were doing when they refused even to give consideration to Mr. Roosevelt's spending-lending plan that originally involved more than $3,000,000,000. They considered politics, too, when they refused to debate the merits of the $800,000,000 housing bill, although I believe they should have debated that thing in order that the country could know that it would have cost several billion dollars of taxpayers' money before it is finally wound up 60 years hence.

Not Politics Alone Moved House to Oppose President

The refusal of the house members to do the bidding of the Chief Executive must be examined in something more than just a political light, however, because of the two provisions of the Constitution that I quoted. It must be recalled that the authors of the Constitution contrived to build a national legislative body with a dual purpose: 1. to represent the Union of states which is accomplished through the senate, and, 2. to represent the individual citizens which is accomplished through the house of representatives. The house, therefore, is held to be the body more responsive to individual thinking among the people and to react more quickly to changes in public sentiment. That matter of having taxation originate in the house, therefore, is seen to be an attempt to reflect in the legislative acts the willingness or unwillingness of the people to stand for taxes, since the house members must stand for election each two years.

Again, when the Constitution said that appropriations had to be enacted as law before money is paid out of the treasury, there was a patent curb on wild and profligate spending. The house, being closer to the people, first felt the call of the people for government spending and responded. Since the senators, too, are elected by direct vote of the people, they also heard the siren call and voted out money with the greatest of ease. But the house led the way.

Lately, however, there has been a change in that individual thinking. The majority of the people have begun to wonder where all of this spending was going to end; they began to wonder how the national debt—now well above $45,000,000,000—would ever be paid. They smelled fresh taxes. The senate heard, but failed to heed, this new call. Senators chiseled and nibbled at curtailment, but they did not put their mind to the business of cutting expenditures. It was the house that led the way, again. And, as I said earlier, they acted definitely by refusing even to debate the two cornerstone bills—the spending-lending bill and the housing bill.

Action of House Reflects Will of People on Spending

It is made to appear, therefore, that the concept of the Constitution's authors was correct. They felt that the house would hear from home, as we say these days. And the house has heard. Politics, alone, was not responsible except insofar as politics represents the shifts in position that statesmen must take to meet the changes in public sentiment.

The bulk of the people, it seems, have suddenly awakened to the fact that something must be done about the continued spree upon which the federal government has been engaged in the last five or six years. The refusal of the house to act cannot be catalogued otherwise than as reflecting the will of the people, for the politician who knows his onions seldom is seen going in the wrong direction if the votes of his constituents are concerned.

Whether the economy wave that swept through the house in the last few weeks of a session that is destined to be historically important will be maintained in the next session of the Seventy-sixth congress, of course, is a matter of conjecture. It is to be noted that primaries for nominations come along early next spring and summer. Following those primaries in natural sequence are the November elections. If the members of the house and senate who have balked at running the federal government further into debt take the same position in the session starting next January, then I am inclined to the opinion that our nation will be on the way out of its troubles. I always hedge statements about congress, however, because politicians will sometimes place party above principle. They might deem it necessary to buy a few votes with taxpayers' money in advance of the primaries next year. Whether the representatives and senators have such ideas in mind, or not, I wish the voters would put every one of them on the spot by demanding to know whether they are going to let this nation go any further into debt. The debt now is so large that each of us is going to pay and pay and pay in taxes, and after we have passed on, our children and theirs will pay.

Congress Failed to See That Money Was Properly Spent

I always have opposed congressional action that delegates power settled on the congress by the Constitution. In these columns, there has never been any deviation from that conviction. Since 1933, there has been a constant trend in the wrong direction. New powers have been given the President time after time. Particularly, has this been true in the matter of handling money. Congress obeyed the dictates of the Constitution by appropriating the money, but it did not do that which there certainly is a duty to do, namely, see that the money is spent properly.

In an examination of the latest spending-lending scheme put forward by the President and rudely shattered by the house, therefore, it strikes me that another device to get more power away from congress was being proposed. In the first place, there was little, if any, hope that recovery could come out of the program. We have seen only slightly different schemes flop annually for several years. Further, these plans that are temporarily out of the window appeared to me to be a trick to evade the law in that the financing was to be done without consideration of the national budget and finances. None of these new debts would show in the budget. The program resembled a road that is cut around the edge of a town to avoid the business section, a bypass.

Respecting the merit of the spending-lending bill, itself, there is little in my opinion to warrant its adoption. In plain language, the proposal would have socialized credit in the United States—and I can not believe that the United States is ready to take up state socialism after the manner of Mussolini or Hitler.

President's Hints Sound Like Admission of Failure

The smashing of the administration's scheme, of course, did have its political repercussions and Mr. Roosevelt, feeling the toe of a stiff boot as he obviously did feel such a political blow, will be carrying his case to "the people" soon. He said in a press conference one day that "the people were entitled to know who was responsible," meaning the congress. He also suggested that the people ought to know in advance why there would be more unemployment and why there would be new taxes to pay for relief. All of which sounds rather like an admission of failure. That is to say, these schemes of spending, of pump priming, of creating new and greater debt, all have failed in returning the country to anything like a normal condition. We have nothing to show for something like $25,000,000,000 so expended excepting the bonds of the United States government that are outstanding.

New Dealers, however, are still battling. I noted one of them said the other day that an extra session of congress in November of this year was surely a necessity. That proposal will bear watching. I have talked with many, many leaders in congress—men of long experience and understanding — and none of them believes an extra session to be necessary.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Smart Wool With Gold Accent Is Early Fall Style Formula

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

IF THERE is one theme more than another about which fashion interest centers this fall, that theme is the outstanding importance of fine, choice fabric. In assembling the autumn wardrobe the thought to keep uppermost in mind is that for the most part the style structure for the coming months is being built around the idea of handsome material made up with a studied simplicity that achieves classic lines which lead to well-balanced silhouettes bespeaking a new dignity in the mode.

The new wool weaves are adding a particularly exciting chapter to the current story of fabric elegance. In laying the foundation for the early fall wardrobe the idea of handsome wool styled to a nicety with emphasis on dramatic simplicity, is making widespread appeal.

What to offset the amazing simplicity of the dress or suit of swank wool? The answer is gold jewelry accents. Which is one of the startling items of news in the new season's trends. There is a "gold rush" on in fashion's realm. Black with gold is especially a message that is being flashed throughout the style centers of the world.

Black wool jersey, a particularly smart indication for early fall, is used for the fashion-right semi-tailored dress centered to right above in the illustration. Note, with the bracelet-length sleeves the unusually wide gold bracelet. This matter of the wider bracelet is in accordance with fashion's latest decree.

To further dramatize this modish daytime frock of black wool jersey there are gold clips that highspot the lapel. Flattering too, are the circle earrings.

To the lower right in the picture, a princess model of billiard green flannel, beautifully fitted at the waist, breaks into pleats below the hips. The high round neck practically demands a necklace and a suitable one as here shown is of gold links with gold knobs. The wide link gold bracelet looks well with the necklace and a cunning gold clip climaxes this jewelry ensemble. The plaid hat crowns the entire with glory.

Gold jewelry as a smart accent to colorful tweeds has also become a hobby with fashion. To the left in the picture see a deep bright green tweed suit with a new collar treatment and stitched detail down the front of the jacket. The skirt is widely gored. Take particular notice of the gold and green tourmaline daisy pin with a diamond center worn on the jacket. The bracelets are of the new large gold link type. Gold stitched suede describes the hat.

A few notes in general in regard to the new wool weaves follow. The trend to smoother versions of the velvety duvetyn order is apparent. There are also many ribboned woolens. While black woolens are having a widespread initial call, there is also a big movement going on among richly colorful tweeds and other wool weaves gorgeously toned in new shades of blue green and flower reds with rust tones greatly in favor for sports and travel wear.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Gored Skirt

It's going to be a banner season for sweaters. From the practical angle the skirt-and-sweater idea has no peer. Essential to the joy of a junior or teen-age is the skirt that is muchly gored as is the one worn by the little girl in the picture. There is something very fashion-wise about this model. Sewn seam detail alternates with pressed crease to create added interest in the styling of this skirt which is fashioned of naphthalated wool gabardine. The soft angora sweater assembled with it may be in contrasting shade or matching shade of the skirt. Either way you will be right in style.

Season of Luxury In Fabrics Seen

All signs point to a season of luxury especially in matter of fabric elegance. The tendency is toward dignified trends rather than the much-exploited "little girl" fashions that have been centering the stage during past months.

Suits of stiff faille, rich brocades for evening wear, imposing jewelry accents emphasizing wide bracelets, necklaces that have a broad collarlike spread and massive gold effects in belts, and in clips all indicate return to elegance.

The play being made on fur borderings that is being lavished on coat, suit and frock, the revival of old-fashioned passementrie, the elaborate hand-embroidery and countless such trends are reminiscent of the Victorian age of pomp and glory. The fact of sleek fitted dresses with in many instances the long sleeve, the quaint back-fullness treatments that modernize bustle effects, fitted basques, laced-in corsets all portend the trend to greater dignity in fashions.

Hats Show Wealth Of Ostrich Trims

A definite revival of ostrich is announced for this fall and winter. Many of the new hats show a wealth of ostrich trims. Evening wraps are trimmed with ostrich, little boleros are all of ostrich, and there are bags, and fans, and fanciful muffs to match.

To Show Your Watch

Gloves, designed so that the face of your wrist watch can be seen at a glance, are one of the newest presentations of a famous London designer.

A Cool Color

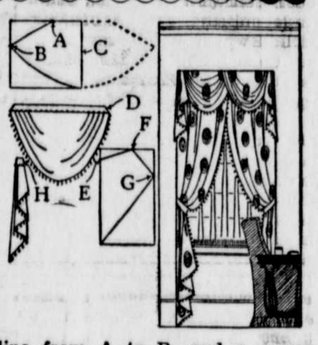
For a summer suit of linen, Schiaparelli chooses a color the exact shade of orange ice.

Alex Finds It Smooth Going!

Barrel jumpers usually play safe with papier mache dummies. But Alex Hurd, Olympic record holder and jumping star of the Sun Valley Ice Show at the New York World's Fair, shows his self confidence by leaping over steel drums full of Quaker State motor oil.—Adv.

HOW to SEW

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS



AN IMPORTANT speaker was scheduled, and the club rooms were looking rather shabby. The decorating committee reported that formal draperies would lend an air of distinction. The funds could only pay for the material. Sewing machines hummed and here is a sketch of the miracle that was wrought. Here also are the dimensions that were used for making patterns for the graceful valance sections which were fastened over rods with snaps.

For the looped section, cut paper 18 inches deep and half as wide as the window measured over the frame. From the upper right corner to point A is half of the window width less two inches. Point B is 6 inches below the upper left corner. Draw a diagonal line from A to B, and a curve from B to the lower right corner. Place the edge marked C on a fold of the goods. The diagonal ends are pleated and stitched into a band as at D.

For the end pieces, cut paper 15 inches wide and 24 inches deep. E is 3 inches below the upper left corner. F is 9 inches in from the upper right corner. G is 6 inches down from the upper right corner. Finish the top as at H.

The offer of the two 25-cent sewing books containing 96 HOW TO SEW articles that have not appeared in the paper will be withdrawn soon. At present you can get both books for the price of one; but don't delay; send 25 cents with name and address to Mrs. Spears, 210 S. Desplaines St., Chicago, Ill., and both books will be sent by return mail, postpaid.

Cutwork for Linens

Here's your chance to own beautiful linens without any trouble at all! Cutwork's easy to do, you know—it's just buttonhole stitch (there's just a touch of other stitchery). Such a variety of floral motifs too. Get busy on a tea cloth, scarf or towel. These designs are stunning on natural linen or soft pastel shades with stitchery in white or the matching color. Pattern 6331 contains a transfer pattern of 16 motifs ranging from 3¼ by 3¼ inches to 4½ by 15 inches; materials needed; color schemes.

To obtain this pattern, send 15 cents in coins to The Sewing Circle, Household Arts Dept., 259 W. 14th St., New York, N. Y.

Colored Diamonds

What is said to be the most complete collection of colored diamonds in the world is that of Paul Gillot, the famous designer of jewels. It consists of 110 distinct colors, among which are pink, orchid, black, chartreuse, orange, blue, peach and green diamonds. Mr. Gillot has designed and set many of the crown jewels and was for 15 years Sarah Bernhardt's jeweler. He has been decorated by many countries and is sometimes referred to as the "king of diamonds."

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