

FIGHT OVER WPA Hinges on State or U. S. Control

NATIONAL AFFAIRS
RELIEF ISSUE splits ranks of
Democrats.

ALIEN LAW "loopholes" are
studied in Congress.
Harness bill to bar Bergdoll
from U. S. is in committee.
SURPLUS FOOD plan to be
tried first in Rochester, N. Y.
WPA UNION aid testifies he is
Communist.

By THOMAS L. STOKES
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The big issue developing over WPA and relief is whether the Federal Government should continue its administration or whether the major part of the burden should be turned over to the states.

This is now made certain by the advocacy of state administration, with Federal supervision, by Republicans. Senate Leader McNary (Ore.) and by the split which is alienating some conservative Democrats with Republicans to precipitate another of the battles which have featured the current session.

Rep. Clifton A. Woodrum (D. Va.), a power in the House Appropriations Committee, has introduced a bill calling for grants to states for relief and it will be this type of solution to which some conservative Democrats, though not all, will rally. Senator Byrnes (D. S. C.), Southern bloc leader, will be found leading those who favor continued Federal administration of relief, but with some reforms embodied in a bill which the Senate will begin to consider in a few days.

Favors Federal Control

Senator Byrnes is influential. It is expected that he will succeed in defeating the attempt in the Senate to turn relief administration over to the states. In this he will be the champion of the Administration.

His bill would lump together the various relief agencies—WPA, PWA, the public building agency of the Treasury, the Bureau of Public Roads, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the National Youth Administration, the Federal employment exchanges—into a new independent agency.

The Administration has not given its full approval to this bill in detail, but probably will, as a means of fending off the plan to turn relief over to the states.

Two principal arguments for state administration are brought forward by Republicans and conservative Democrats.

One is that it would make for economy, on the ground that local officials, knowing local problems, would be better able to weed out those undeserving of relief.

The second is that local bi-partisan boards, proposed for administration by Republicans, would keep relief more clear of politics.

Seeks Local Responsibility

Senator Byrnes, in his bill, seeks to bring about local responsibility by requiring one-third local contribution for all work relief projects of the type hitherto provided through WPA. Senator McNary proposed a 25 per cent local contribution.

As for politics, Senator Byrnes argues that local administration would be far more likely to throw relief into politics than Federal administration. The weight of evidence seems to be with him on this point.

As a result of the "politics in relief" revealed by the Sheppard committee, the Senate now has passed a permanent law forbidding politics in WPA, with heavy penalties. This bill is expected to be approved by the House. Col. F. C. Haring, the Army Officer now in charge of WPA, has begun to clean house.

NEW BUDGET CHIEF PLEDGES SELF-RULE

WASHINGTON, April 18 (U. P.)—Harold D. Smith, the new budget director, declared today that he did not intend to become a "yes" man or a chronic "no" man.

"The budget director's job," he said in his first interview since taking over that important fiscal post, "is to carry out policy formulated by the Administration. But I am going to reserve the right to disagree whenever I feel my position is justified—even with President Roosevelt."

Mr. Smith yesterday assumed the post vacated by Lewis W. Douglas soon after the New Deal came into power. Mr. Douglas resigned because of disagreement with Administration fiscal policies. Daniel W. Bell has been acting budget director.

"As a matter of fact," Mr. Smith said, "the President himself told me he didn't want me to 'yes' him against my better judgment and I don't intend to do it."

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Marionettes Give Unscheduled Show



Joseph Shea, Marionette director (left), gives an unscheduled show to backstage visitors, Alice and Martha Anne Dako (right). The show at the Central Library auditorium marked the end of the season for the city's puppet enthusiasts. Times Photo.

UNION AID SAYS HE'S COMMUNIST

But Executive of WPA Union Declares He Does Not Advocate Overthrow.

WASHINGTON, April 18 (U. P.)—Herbert Benjamin, secretary-treasurer of the Workers Alliance, told the House WPA Investigating Committee today that he is a Communist.

He denied, however, that he believed in the overthrow of the American Government by force and said he saw "no inconsistency between the philosophy of the Communist Party and the American principles of democracy."

'March' Called

The Workers Alliance is an organization of WPA workers seeking higher wages for relief clients. It has called a "march" on Washington next month to ask Congress to appropriate larger relief appropriations.

Rep. George W. Johnson (D. W. Va.) asked David Lasser, Alliance president, how many of the 45,000 aliens he said had been removed from WPA rolls belonged to the Alliance.

"I believe no more than 1000," Mr. Lasser said.

J. O'Connor Roberts, committee counsel, questioned Mr. Benjamin about a statement in the report of the House Committee on un-American Activities that he had made a report to the Third Internationale of the organization of the Workers Alliance. The statement attributed to him was that the unification of the unemployed councils into the Workers Alliance represented the culmination of a four years campaign by the Communist party.

Reveals U. A. W. Gift

Mr. Benjamin denied he made such a report to "the Third or any other Internationale."

Questioned about the alliance financial report for a 15-month period ending Aug. 31, 1938, Mr. Benjamin said a \$7000 contribution was received from the United Automobile Workers Union, a C. I. O. affiliate.

In protesting procedure used during the hearing, both Mr. Lasser and Mr. Benjamin said in a joint statement:

"If this committee believes our organization is subversive, it should say so, and then take the responsibility of proving it."

Ohioans Wed For 19 Years, Get Married

Indiana Representative's Bill Would Shut 'U. S. Gates' to 'Dodger.'

WASHINGTON, April 18 (U. P.)—After 19 years of happy wedded life, a Youngstown, O., couple, parents of two children, were married for the first time.

It developed that when the couple decided to marry here in 1920, they forgot one important thing: The marriage ceremony. They thought the license was all that was necessary.

The facts were brought out when the wife recently applied for a citizenship paper and it was discovered that no minister or justice of the peace had signed the original license. A new license was obtained.

The names of the couple were withheld to save embarrassment.

Rep. Forest A. Harness (R. Ind.) yesterday introduced the bill which would prohibit Bergdoll's return and that of any other person who may have fled the country as a deserter from the nation's armed forces.

Earlier Harry Weinberger, Bergdoll's attorney, conferred with officials of three Government agencies, informing them that the draft evader wanted to quit Germany and return here to serve his court-martial sentence.

In introducing his bill, Rep. Harness, a war veteran who was cited for bravery, referred to an attempt by Bergdoll to regain his half-million dollar property and said he "was moved to offer this measure at this time to insure against this arch-traitor's return to this country under any circumstances."

He urged separation of policies from parole administration and suggested that other states follow the example of Minnesota, which restores civil rights to parolees who live up to state standards of good behavior.

The conference was called by Attorney-General Murphy to seek means of standardizing and perfecting state parole systems.

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FRISCO POLICE CHIEF RAPPS PENAL SYSTEM

WASHINGTON, April 18 (U. P.)—William J. Quinn, Police Chief of San Francisco, told the National Parole Conference today that while civilization has progressed amazingly, the penal system in the United States has not kept pace.

He urged separation of policies from parole administration and suggested that other states follow the example of Minnesota, which restores civil rights to parolees who live up to state standards of good behavior.

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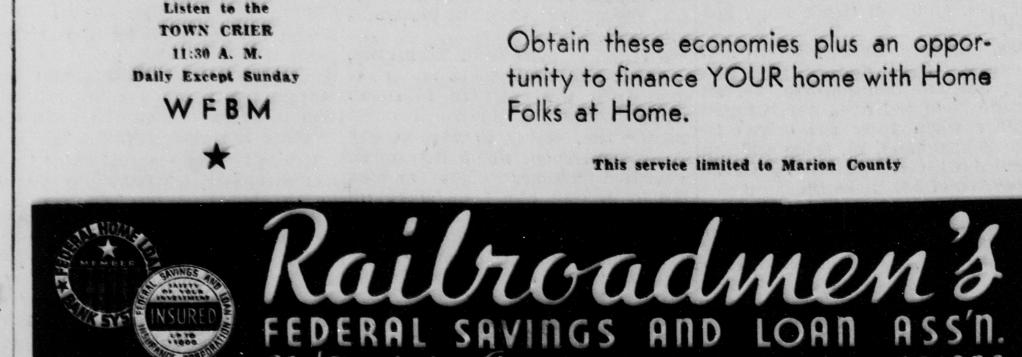
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CONGRESS ACTS TO STRENGTHEN ALIEN STATUTE

Decision on Strecker Still Leaves Bridges' Case In Doubt.

WASHINGTON, April 18 (U. P.)—The Supreme Court's decision in the Strecker case precipitated today a Congressional move to eliminate "loopholes" in the statute providing for deportation of alien members of organizations advocating violent overthrow of the Government.

Chairman Hatton W. Sumners (D. Tex.) planned to have the House Judiciary Committee examine the law immediately and consider changes that would leave no doubt that past as well as present membership in such organizations shall be cause for deportation.

Bridge's Case in Doubt

The Court's decision, invalidating a deportation order against Joseph George Strecker, admitted one-time Communist, still left in doubt the case of Harry Bridges, Pacific Coast labor leader who has been accused of being a Communist. The Bridges deportation order was held up by the Labor Department pending the Strecker decision.

But the court voided the Strecker order because he was not a member of the Communist Party when deportation proceedings were instituted upon entry to this country.

Mr. Bridges denies that he is a Communist. Thus his case appears to depend whether the Labor Department can prove he is, or was when entering this country, a member, and whether the Communist Party advocates violent overthrow of the Government. The court did not rule in the Strecker case whether that party falls within the category of proscribed organizations.

Law Held Almost Dead

Some Government officials said privately, and Associate Justice James C. McReynolds, in a dissenting opinion, indicated that they considered the Federal statute in question practically a dead letter.

The majority decision held that the law limited deportation to two classes of aliens—those belonging to organizations advocating violent overthrow of the Government when they entered the country and those belonging when deportation proceedings were instituted.

More than 450 Indiana women interested in gardens and garden clubs attended the "Garden Club Day" yesterday. Mrs. M. Clifford Townsend was honor guest at their luncheon and speakers included Mrs. Walter P. Morton, Indiana Garden clubs state president, and Mrs. Robert E.

'Ranch-House' Model Praised



The "ranch-house" model home at the 18th Annual Home Show is receiving more favorable comment than any previous one. J. Frank Cantwell, managing director, said today. Builder of the All-Indiana home is Forest B. Kellogg, seated at the mahogany semicircular desk in the den. Mrs. Kellogg is seated in a bleached oak chair which is upholstered in turquoise frieze.

Attendance Exceeds '38; Garden Club Day Noted

Attendance at the 18th Annual Home Show at the Fair Grounds is running slightly ahead of last year despite bad weather, J. Frank Cantwell, show managing director, said today.

No special day will be observed at the exhibit today, he announced, because of the death of Emmet G. Ralston, Electric League president for the last four years.

As in the past the Electric League was to have celebrated its "day" with the annual luncheon.

Officers, members of the board of directors and exhibitors sent a greeting to Eugene Whitehill, Banner-Whitehill general manager, who is recovering from an operation at St. Vincent's Hospital. Banner-Whitehill furnished the model home at this year's exhibition.

Miles, garden representative on the show's board of directors, was to have celebrated its "day" with the annual luncheon.

W. H. Potter, Cleveland, O., discussed garden lighting and demonstrated methods with colored slides.

Committee chairmen in charge were Mrs. Minor Gouling, Mrs. Robert F. Mannfeld, Mrs. Leonard Murchison, and Mrs. Chester Taylor.

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