

HATCH BILL ANAEMIC AFTER ADMINISTRATION SURGERY

NEW PROVISION CONDONES EVILS IT HOPED TO END

Invites U. S. Employees Into Politics Rather Than Barring Them.

By CHARLES T. LUCEY
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, July 1.—The Administration's fight to keep the army of Federal employees free to mix in politics—and thus to be active in the 1940 campaign—left the Hatch no-politics bill today an anaemic version of the measure adopted by the Senate in April.

The House Judiciary Committee yesterday reported a bill which not only fails to bar Federal employees from political activity, but in which it had written a provision in effect inviting employees to do just that—to "participate in the activities of a political party."

The Committee went further and weakened the section of the bill making it unlawful to solicit or receive an assessment for political purposes from persons paid from relief funds. The Committee wrote in a clause making the prohibition apply to "relief workers or persons on relief."

Possible to Solicit Funds

This makes it possible to solicit funds from people paid with relief funds but serving in an administrative, supervisory or special capacity. Nonrelief workers make up a sizable block of those in the relief administration.

This action brought immediate criticism from Senator Sheppard (D. Texas), chairman of a special Senate Committee which investigated politics in relief last year, and whose report spurred action on the bill in the Senate.

"It is just as evil for administrative officials in the relief organization to be engaged in such practices as for the relief workers themselves," Mr. Sheppard said.

Victor Section Taken Out

The House Judiciary Committee struck from the Hatch bill the section which Senator Hatch (D. N. M.), its author, considered the substance of the bill. This section barred employees from "taking active part in political management or in political campaigns."

The Committee left in the bill a section barring administrative employees from using their authority or influence "for the purpose of interfering with an election or affecting the results thereof."

The penalty provided in the Senate bill for violation of this section was immediate removal.

The House Rules Committee delayed giving the bill a right-of-way to the House floor today, but Rep. John J. Dempsey (D. N. M.), leading the fight for the bill in the House, said action next Thursday was certain.

JAPANESE CHARGE BRITISH ARROGANT

TIENTSIN, China, July 1 (U. P.)—A Domei (Japanese) news agency dispatch from Amoy said today that Japanese authorities planned "independent action" because British authorities had failed to accept an invitation to resume negotiations regarding the status of Kulangsu, the foreign area of Amoy.

Britons at Kulangsu had adopted an "arrogant" attitude, the dispatch said, and were accused of "machinations in stubbornly resisting Japanese demands," in contrast to other foreigners who were conciliatory.

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