

CONGRESS TO PUT PRICE CURB FIRST

Senate Committee Votes for Stronger Control Measure Than That Approved by House; New Session Opens Monday.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 (U. P.)—Price Control legislation took top billing today on the list of issues facing the new session of Congress, which convenes at noon Monday.

The price fixing bill was given first reading when the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, after the year-long first session of the 77th Congress had come to an end late yesterday, voted unanimously to report a stronger control measure than that approved by the House Nov. 28.

Senate leaders planned to begin consideration of the bill Tuesday or Wednesday. The start of debate, however, presumably hinges on final decision as to the day President Roosevelt will appear to deliver his annual message to Congress on the state of the union.

The Senate's price fixing bill would authorize Price Administrator Leon Henderson to set ceilings on commodity prices. It would direct him to consider prevailing market prices during the period from Oct. 1 to 15, 1941, in fixing those ceilings, but to select another two-weeks period if in the first half of October the price of some commodity was abnormal.

Special Farm Price Floor

A special floor is provided in the case of agricultural commodities. No farm price ceiling may be set below 110 per cent of parity, or below the market of Oct. 1, 1941, whichever is higher.

The Senate bill provides for use of government licenses as a means of enforcing price control whenever desired by the administrator.

The Senate measure does not authorize ceilings over wages, but the Senate Committee wrote in a declaration of policy directing government agencies dealing with labor—including the Labor Department and its bureaus, the War and Navy Departments, the OPM and other agencies—to "work toward the stabilization of prices and the cost of production."

Another Senate change was insertion of a provision authorizing President Roosevelt to transfer any of the price control functions to another agency.

Other Legislation

Other legislation will center around:

TAXATION. A staggering new revenue bill, topping in size the record-breaking \$3,500,000,000 measure enacted last year, is in prospect. The Treasury is expected to initiate a program before the House Ways and Means Committee soon after Jan. 15.

APPROPRIATIONS. President Roosevelt has announced that the new war budget—which will be presented to Congress next week—will call for about \$50,000,000,000, or half the national income, for military expenditures.

ECONOMY. A joint Senate-House-executive committee will seek to trim non-defense spending, which has been running around \$7,000,000,000 a year, by at least \$1,000,000,000.

DEBT LIMIT. The present legal ceiling on the national debt—\$65,000,000,000—will be reached late in the spring, and legislation will be needed to raise it.

Strike Curbed

LABOR. Pressure exists in both houses for legislation to curb strikes and other work stoppages which impede war production. Although the Senate withheld action at the President's request after the House passed a comprehensive bill outlawing strikes unless voted by a majority of the workers, action will be sought on that and other pending measures, including a plant seizure bill by Senator Tom Connally (D. Tex.).

Other measures of lesser importance will also get attention. The House has pending a billion-dollar omnibus rivers and harbors bill including the controversial St. Lawrence seaway project. Bills are pending in both branches for national daylight saving time as a means of conserving power for war needs. The Senate Military Affairs Committee is considering a bill to increase the pay of the members of the armed services.

IN INDIANAPOLIS—VITAL STATISTICS

Here Is the Traffic Record

MEETINGS TODAY

Indiana State Bar Association Committee on National Defense, meeting, Claypool Hotel, noon.

MEETINGS TOMORROW

Indiana Association of Optometrists, convention, Severson Hotel, all day.

TRIPPI TRAFFIC COURT

Cases Convic- Fines

Violations Tried Cases Paid

Speeding 7 5 \$55

Reckless driving 4 3 22

Failure to stop at through street 1 1 0

Disobeying traffic signals 1 1 11

Drunken driving 1 1 20

All others 15 11 77

Totals 29 22 \$185

MARRIAGE LICENSES

These lists are from official records in the County Court House. The Times, therefore, is not responsible for errors in names and addresses.

Samuel Magness, 22, of 1711 Union; Gerald Johnson, 20, of 2121 N. 30th; George Lovell, 28, of 728 N. East; Eddie Lovell, 28, of 728 N. East; Leon Holler, 20, of 2000 Grove, Ind.; James Madaker, 20, of 851 King; Bert Lovell, 21, of 711 N. Haugh; James McGuire, 21, of 711 N. Haugh; Sharon, W. Va.; Fred Johnson, 28, Camp Shetley; Esther Johnson, 18, Harrodsburg, Ind.

7 MILLION ADDED TO STATE'S FUND

New Taxes Hiked General Cash; Seen as Help in Post-War Period.

Boom conditions in Indiana last year increased the balance in the State general fund by \$7,000,000, State Auditor Richard T. James reported today.

The balance in the fund, from which State operating expenses are paid, was approximately \$17,000,000 at the close of business Dec. 31, he said. The balance on the same day in 1940 was approximately \$10,000,000.

Mr. James said that \$6,000,000 of the increase was due to increased tax collections and that a little over \$1,000,000 resulted from budget reductions by the 1941 Legislature.

Wants Taxes "Preserved"

The State has \$21,000,000 in unexpended appropriations to pay for from the general fund before June 30, 1942. Mr. James predicted, however, that tax collections during the coming six months would be sufficient to leave the State with a general fund balance of between \$18,000,000 and \$20,000,000 at the close of the fiscal year.

He said he hoped the present balance would be preserved for the post-war period.

"If present taxes are continued and if the 1943 Legislature doesn't spend the surplus, Indiana should have enough on hand to take care of the post-war period without any increase in taxes," he said.

40 Million on Hand

The auditor's year-end report revealed that the State had a balance of \$40,000,000 on hand in its funds at the end of 1941 as compared to \$35,000,000 at the close of 1940.

The biggest increase in tax collections last year was in gross income, where a \$2,000,000 gain was registered, the tax raising approximately \$200,000.

Mr. James predicted that despite the reduction in the tax of 1 to 1 1/4 per cent, beginning Jan. 1, there would not be a sharp drop in the revenue from this source because of war-time conditions. Defense plants have to pay State gross income tax.

PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

Other major revenue increases were in the alcoholic beverage tax which netted the State \$337,000 more; in the oil inspection tax, \$61,000, and in the general property tax, \$340,000.

The increase in property tax collections came from payment of delinquent taxes, Mr. James said. And since the State receives only 5 per cent of the property taxes collected, he estimated that there was approximately \$6,000,000 in delinquent taxes paid up over the state last year.

MOTORISTS PAY MORE

Motorists, who pay a 4-cent tax to the State on each gallon of gasoline they buy, paid \$16,700,000 during 1941, an increase of \$1,700,000 over 1940. This money goes into the Highway Fund and is distributed to the State, counties and cities to build roads and streets.

Mr. James predicted that because of the tire and car rationing, gasoline taxes would drop to such an extent that the Highway Commission would have to confine itself to building roads for defense.

He also reported that he had cut costs in the three divisions of his department by approximately \$11,200 under the expenses for the last six months of 1940.

BLAME AUTHOR FOR MANILA CRITICISM

Kuibyshev, Jan. 3 (U. P.)—Soviet quarters, commenting today on an article in the official Communist newspaper Pravda Wednesday which condemned declaration of Manila as an open city as "cowardly," said today the author merely had intended to express disappointment that the Philippines were not better defended.

The article, written by S. Zaslavsky, said Manila should have been defended as a fortress as Tobruk, Leningrad, Moscow and Sebastopol have been.

Soviet quarters said the author also was responsible for the abuse, ridiculing tone of the article, despite the fact that it was published in the official party organ.

PARTY TO HONOR HER ON 90TH BIRTHDAY

Times Special

CASTLETON, Ind., Jan. 3—Friends and relatives of Mrs. Elizabeth Russell, who was 90 Dec. 31, will honor her at an open house at the home of her son, Arch Russell, in Castleton, at 2 p. m. tomorrow.

Mrs. Russell has spent all of her life in Lawrence Township. She has another son, Bert, of Castleton, and a daughter, Mrs. Maggie Eaton, of Indianapolis.

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