

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Tornadoes Kill Hundreds in Southern States—An Insurance House Killed the Manufacturers' Sales Tax Provision of the Tax Bill

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

SPRING tornadoes that swept across five southern states took a toll of more than three hundred lives and caused property damage that will not be estimated for a long time. Other hundreds of persons were injured and a great many were rendered homeless.

Alabama was the worst sufferer, the deaths in that state reaching a total of at least 246. Thirty-five were killed in Georgia, eighteen in Tennessee and two each in South Carolina and Kentucky. As communications were broken down over wide areas the lists may be enlarged later. To add to the distress a wave of unseasonably cold weather came, and farmers in the regions hardest hit faced the prospect of a planting season without implements, live stock or shelter.

The National Guard was called to the relief work in Alabama and tents, cots and blankets were hurriedly distributed to the sufferers, while welfare agencies collected food and clothing. Gov. B. M. Miller formally called on the people of the state to contribute to the relief of those in the storm areas and the Red Cross, of course, was on the job promptly. In Tuscaloosa and Talladega counties it was found necessary to establish militia patrols to prevent looting.

AN INSURGENT house killed the \$600,000 general manufacturers' sales tax provisions of the billion dollar tax bill in one of the most spectacular sessions in years.

It marked the revolt of both Democrats and Republicans from party leadership.

The sales-tax section was knocked out of the bill by a vote of 223 to 183. Wild cheering by the anti-sales tax forces greeted the announcement.

Having adopted amendments boosting the individual income and estate taxes and having restored "double taxation" on companies with plants abroad—all estimated to yield around \$100,000,000 in revenue in 1933—the house immediately took steps to raise the \$500,000,000 necessary to fill the hole in the bill caused by killing of the sales tax.

In throwing out the sales tax section, the house under lash of insurging Republicans and Democrats, led by Representative La Guardia (Rep.), of New York, and Representative Doughton (Dem.) of North Carolina, bowled over the regular leaders of both parties and overthrew the program of its ways and means committee.

As a result of the action of the house in wrecking the tax bill, congress probably will have to adjourn, over the Republican and Democratic national conventions in June, returning in session to complete the legislative program. Senator Robinson of Arkansas, Democratic senator leader, said.

Majority leader Henry T. Rainey (Dem., Ill.) said after adjournment:

"The house has rejected the Democratic bill and now is compelled to turn to the Republican bill proposed by the treasury in order to balance the budget. It will be necessary to provide for more than \$500,000,000 of revenue to take the place of the sales tax."

MAYOR FRANK MURPHY, of Detroit, announced last Thursday his plans to have the city of Detroit stop paying interest on the \$400,000,000 debts owed by the city. The announcement was made following a long telephone conversation with Senator James Couzens, who was said to have approved the plan.

OVER on the senate side there had grown a group known as the "temper centers" who, under the leadership of McKellar of Tennessee, undertook to do things in the way of government economy. This group is already so large that it dominates the senate and on Tuesday that body by a vote of 50 to 29 sent back to the committee on appropriations the \$124,000,000 state, justice, labor and commerce appropriation bill for a mandatory cut of 10 per cent. Chairman Jones of the committee, who opposed the move, said he would take this as a mandate to make similar cuts in all the supply bills. Senator McKeever thought it would result in a saving of at least \$25,000,000 to the government. Appropriations for interest on the public debt or payments to war veterans, which together amounts to more than \$1,000,000,000, alone are to be exempted.

During the debate Senator Blaine of Wisconsin offered an amendment to strike out the entire \$11,000,000 included in the bill for prohibition enforcement. "It is ridiculous," said he, "to take money from the poor in a sales tax and hand it over to prohibition spies, nefarious creatures who go about trying to see that some one does not take a drink." His amendment was voted down without a roll call.

DOES of prohibition in the senate are following the example set by the wets in the house and paving the way to obtain a record vote, and the dry senators say they can have it. On behalf of the wets Senator Tydings of Maryland offered a motion to discharge the judiciary committee from further consideration of resolutions for repeal or amendment of the Eighteenth amendment, and in support of this he presented a petition signed by twenty-four members. Wishing to give others a chance to sign, Mr. Tydings

said he would not press his motion until March 31. Under the senate rules the petition is unnecessary. Senator Watson of Indiana, the Republican leader, signed it with the understanding that this did not commit him to a wet position. The other signers were twelve Republicans and eleven Democrats.

REPRESENTATIVE ROYAL C. Johnson of South Dakota, a Republican who used to be a dry, went to the White House the other day to discuss legislative matters with President Hoover, and in the course of their conversation he told the Chief Executive he believed the people had a right to another vote on the prohibition question. Leaving the conference, Mr. Johnson said to the correspondents that less than 25 per cent of the voters of the country had an opportunity to register their views on the national wet and dry question. He said that census bureau officials had told him that 20,000,000 Americans had reached voting age since the Eighteenth amendment was adopted.

"In addition," Mr. Johnson said, "there are the 4,000,000 veterans of the World War who did not have a chance to vote on prohibition. The veterans never had an opportunity to express their views through the ballot. This is a democracy and the people of this country are entitled to a referendum on prohibition."

The Johnson expression of opinion came at a time when renewed pressure is being brought on the White House by wet Republican leaders to influence President Hoover to agree to the insertion of a wet plank in the Republican platform.

HOPE for the safe return of Colonel Lindbergh's kidnapped baby revived with the entry into the case of H. Wallace Caldwell of Chicago, a real estate man and member of the board of education. He made several hasty trips to Hopewell to confer with the colonel and, while refusing to make public his plans, told the press: "I possessed such information as I believed would be of value, and I turned it over to the family. The situation is extremely critical and I desire to give every possible assistance."

Mr. Caldwell was believed to be acting for the "Secret Six," anti-crime group of Chicago, but this he would not admit. He is a wealthy man and is interested in crime solution in an amateur way, and was thought to have obtained his information concerning the Lindbergh case by chance.

The circumstances led to the belief that developments in the matter might be expected in Chicago.

J. W. DULANTY, high commissioner for the Irish Free State in London, notified J. H. Thomas, British secretary for the

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details. Instead he went to Buckingham Palace and conferred with the king for forty minutes and then joined the cabinet which took up the matter.

Mr. Thomas then returned to the house of commons and announced that the government was determined that the Free State should not abolish the oath of allegiance, and had sent word to Dublin making the British standard "clear beyond the possibility of a doubt." He said the same stand was taken regarding the land annuities.

President De Valera had declared he would also abolish the land annuities, which amount to about \$10,150,000 and on which Ireland now owes the British government \$380,000,000. These annuities consist of money advanced by the British government to enable Irish farmers to buy holdings from landlords on a 60 year purchase scheme.

Further trouble for Great Britain came from India where the All-India Moslem conference, representing 70,000,000 Moslems, decided to boycott the round table conference on Indian independence because the demands of the Moslems had not been conceded. The resolution said that if the British failed to settle the communal problem before the end of June the executive board of the Moslem conference will launch a program of "direct action."

DOLE HITLER wasn't being given much chance in his attempt to win the German Presidency from Paul Hindenburg. He was refused the privilege of broadcasting his speeches, and then thirty Nazi newspapers and periodicals were prohibited from publishing because, it was alleged, they were endangering the republic by their attacks on the government. They had printed Hitler's proclamation denouncing the raids made by the Prussian police on 100 Nazi offices. Political feeling in Germany was running high and the course taken by the government was not winning it any more friends.

PEACE prospects in the Orient grew brighter during the week, though there was a chance there would be further fighting before an agreement was reached by Japan and China. Parleys were proceeding quite nicely when Gen. Chiang Kuang-nai, representing the Chinese government, walked out of the conference insulted because the Japanese representative was Gen. Kenkichi Ueda, his inferior in rank, instead of Gen. Yoshinori Shikawa. The interruption was believed to be only temporary and the negotiators, including neutral foreign diplomats, continued hopeful.

However, it was reported that the Japanese, instead of preparing to withdraw from the Shanghai area, were digging new trenches and erecting new barbed-wire entanglements and there was complaint of the acts of their scouting planes. For their part, the Japanese accused the Chinese of trying to advance into the zone of occupation, and said they were prepared to take strong measures to prevent this.

The revolt in the new Manchurian state was growing daily in strength and there were many fights between Japanese troops and the Chinese whom they call bandits. The latter are under command of Tsing Hai, war lord of Kirin province on the Soviet border who captured the city of Fu Yu.

THAT the power question will be a major issue in the Presidential campaign is the substance of a declaration signed by fifteen senators and twenty-two representatives, and they assert that the "power trust" is trying to influence the selection of candidates.

The statement, with the names of the signers, appeared on the frontispiece of a booklet issued by Judson King, director of the National Popular Government League, giving an analysis of the power stands of Presidential candidates.

The signers included Senators Johnson, Norris, Nye, Frazier, Brookhart, Cutting and Howell, Republicans; Walsh of Montana, Wheeler, McKeever, Costigan, Dill, Gore and Long, Democrats, and Shipstead, Farmer-Labor.

The analysis of the Presidential candidates, which was not included in the section endorsed by the legislators, described President Hoover as a "power-trust President," classed Governor Ritchie of Maryland and Newton D. Baker as also on the "power trust" side, termed Alfred E. Smith as on middle ground and listed Speaker Garner and Franklin D. Roosevelt on the "public interest" side.

IOWA'S Republican convention elected twenty-five Hoover delegates to the national convention and pledged the support of the Republicans of the state to the President. Elsewhere in the Middle West the anti-Hoover Republicans were more active. In Illinois they were preparing to put up slates of candidates for delegates who will oppose the candidacy of Mr. Hoover or of any man who is not in favor of repeal of the Eighteenth amendment and of the reduction of cost of government so as to lower taxes. The leadership of this group, especially in Chicago, however, is not of a character to enhance their chances of success.

DISPATCHES from Washington said it was learned there that the La Follettes were planning to enter Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska in the Wisconsin Republican primaries of April 5. Neither they nor Norris believes for a moment the Nebraskan can win the nomination, but the La Follettes seek to have a delegation that will not vote for the President's renomination. This was the strategy they followed in 1928.

SENATOR WHEELER of Montana, after a trip through the wheat belt, predicted that if the Democrats nominate a progressive the Republicans will lose the Middle and Far West. All of which is scoffed at by the administration leaders, though they are daily increasing their efforts in Mr. Hoover's behalf.

Franklin D. Roosevelt won a big victory in the Georgia Presidential preference primaries, defeating by a vote of 10 to 1 Judge G. H. Howard of Atlanta, who ran for Speaker John N. Garner.

TWO house committees, those on appropriations and on economy, are taking great interest in the movement to close up or curtail the activities of the government was determined that the Free State should not abolish the oath of allegiance, and had sent word to Dublin making the British standard "clear beyond the possibility of a doubt." He said the same stand was taken regarding the land annuities.

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