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COURT DECISION WITH GREAT POSSIBILITIES.

One of the most interesting court decisions with great possibilities has recently been handed down by Judge Adkins of the U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The facts in brief are these: A Washington bakery which bakes and distributes thru' retail stores a general line of bakery goods apparently decided to purchase an extra line of cakes from a bakery in Philadelphia. The bakers, salesmen, and drivers for the Washington bakery protested this action and indicated that if it continued they would call a strike on the ground that such purchases of cake from an out-of-town bakery diminished the number of jobs for cake-bakers in Washington and thus endangered their economic welfare. The strike was finally called. The owner of the bakery thereupon filed a suit against the Teamsters and Bakery Drivers Union, the Bakers Union, and the Salesman's Union. The declaration in the suit alleged that the drivers, salesmen and bakers were violating the provisions of the Sherman Anti-trust Act and the Clayton Act and asked for damages in the sum of \$300,000. On January 12th, the Federal court handed down a decision in which it denied all damages and ruled that the bakers, drivers and salesmen had a right to strike against the importation of outside bakery products on the ground that such importations from an outside city might endanger the economic welfare of the employees. If this decision is finally affirmed by the Supreme Court, it would be possible for every city or town to ultimately prevent importations of outside products where such products affected the livelihood of any group within such a locality. This decision has interesting possibilities.

HOW MANY CONGRESSMEN PER STATE.

There are 435 Congressmen. The number is set by statute. There have been that number since 1910. In theory, there is one Congressman for each 279,712 persons. This factor is derived by dividing the population by 435. Taking the population of each state and dividing it by 279,712 indicates the number of Congressmen to which each state is entitled. All this however, was back in 1910. Since then the population has increased very substantially. In some states it has increased more than in others. This would mean that on the basis of today's population, some states should have a larger delegation in Congress while other states should have their delegation reduced. Obviously, no state wants its Congressional representation diminished and therefore rebels at the idea. In 1929, Congress enacted a law under which the re-apportionment of Representatives in Congress became automatic. It provided that the census for 1940, should begin on April 1st, 1940 and that the President should certify the results to the second regular session of the 76th Congress together with his calculation of how many Congressmen should go to each state. Now comes trouble. After the enactment of the 1929 law, the 20th amendment to the Constitution was adopted under which the "second regular session of the 76th Congress" came into session on January 3, 1940. But the census is not under way yet. Hence the President cannot carry out the provisions of the 1929 act. He has therefore asked for an amendment to the law so that it can be done. But the states which might have their delegations reduced don't like the idea, and hence they are already preparing to do battle. Since re-apportionment does not affect the Senate, the battle will be fought out in the House of Representatives.

CLOAKROOM COMMENT.

Heard in the cloakrooms: That Majority Leader Sam Rayburn of Texas may be a candidate for the Vice-Presidency That the war will really open up in the spring That the real fight to keep this country out of war will come this year That Rep. Martin Dies of Texas, Chairman of the Committee on Un-American activities has been ill at his home in Texas since the New Year That the Export-Import Bank which arranges credits for manufacturers and exporters so that our goods might be exported to other countries is one of the few government agencies which really makes a handsome profit on its operations That Rep. Hamilton Fish will enter the Illinois Presidential preference primary That if the President undertakes to secure legislation to restore the three agencies which Congress wiped out, namely the National Resources Planning Board, the Office of

Government Reports and the Council of Personnel Administration, the effort will be defeated That Governor Stark of Missouri will be the Democratic candidate for the Presidency in 1940.

SUBSTITUTE FOR LINCOLN.

In the Archives of the United States is the original application of a soldier by the name of John S. Staples of Stroudsburg, Pa., dated 1882 for a pension in which Private Staples states that "in my second enlistment I was a substitute for President Lincoln." As a patriotic gesture, Lincoln had merely hired Private Staples during the Civil War as a "representative recruit" and so 17 years after the war, Mr. Staples applied for his pension and stated he was Lincoln's substitute. The fact is of course that President Lincoln needed no substitute because the Constitution makes him the Commander-In-Chief of the Army and Navy.

RUBBER GLOVES.

In the Securities & Exchange Commission, inks and acids are used in multilithing, photostating, photographing and for other purposes which are injurious to the hands. Their continued use might result in damage claims against the government under the Compensation Act. Accordingly the Appropriations Committee permitted the inclusion of an item of \$12 for the purchase of rubber gloves, even though there was no legal authority for such purchase. When the bill came to the floor of Congress, two speeches were made against the item. These speeches occupied a full page in the record and therefore cost about \$55. The years supply of gloves cost \$12. Hence, the speeches against rubber gloves would have supplied said gloves for a period of five years.

GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS.

There are many kinds of corporations. There are public or municipal corporations such as cities, towns, school districts. There are quasi-public corporations such as sanitary districts, drainage districts which exercise both public and private functions. There are private corporations such as are authorized under the laws of all states. There are Federal corporations which hold charters from Congress to carry on certain functions not for profit. Then there are strictly government corporations, owned, controlled, and operated by the Federal Government. The first of these was formed in 1902. Another one known as the Inland Waterways Corporation was created by Congress in 1922. Since 1932, at least a score of such corporations have been created by Congress such as the Home Owners Loan Corporation, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and others. Uncle Sam owns all the stock. Reason for discharging governmental functions through corporations is that they can borrow and spend within the limits created by Congress and such borrowing does not appear in the balance sheet of the Treasury. These corporations today owe 5½ billions on bonds in the hands of the public on which the principal and interest has been guaranteed by the government. In the event that they should lose money, the ultimate losses will come out of the pockets of the taxpayers.

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