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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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IMPRISONMENT. The President is virtually a prisoner. He surrenders his right to come and go without surveillance when he enters office. Secret service men closely guard every avenue to the White House. When the President attends a meeting at the Capital, the U.S. Capital Police, secret service men, and large detachments of Washington police are on hand to police highways, guard approaches and keep back crowds. Receptions at the White House are strictly policed and supervised. When the President retires for the night he is most securely locked in. He has no choice and could not discharge secret service vigilance if he so desired.

STRANGE DISPARITIES. Nevada with a total population of 91,000 has one Representative and two U.S. Senators; likewise Wyoming with a population of 225,565, New Mexico and Arizona likewise with total populations only slightly in excess of 400,000. The 16th Illinois district is credited with a population of about 260,000.

THE MCLEOD BILL. There are still 1448 national banks in the U.S. with assets of 924 million dollars in receivership and the purpose of the McLeod Bill is to direct the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to take over these assets, issue money in exchange therefore and direct the receivers and conservators to immediately pay this money to the depositors. Illinois would be directly affected because there are 169 national banks in receivership and 28 national banks under conservatorship in Illinois. This is more than the total number in New York and Pennsylvania combined. Committee hearings are now being held.

REEDVILLE WEST VA. Seemingly little matters often provoke greatest controversy. Mrs. Roosevelt, the First Lady, was interested in locating a small factory at Reedsville, West Va. to give employment to about 125 men who were one time skilled wood workers, later worked in the mines, and when the mines were exhausted, were left in unemployment. At her instance, the Senate added an amendment to a House appropriation bill providing one half million for this purpose. The House struck out the amendment after furious debate during which the cry of socialism was raised. Clinching argument however was a letter from a furniture manufacturer in North Carolina who offered to sell his factory to Uncle Sam for \$52,000 (one tenth of the amount requested in the bill) donate half million feet of lumber suitable for manufacture of furniture and then offered his service for one year in a supervisory capacity for one dollar. One hundred sixty four Democrats voted against the First Lady.

BENEFIT ACREAGE PAYMENTS. Actual payments under the acreage reduction program of the AAA for cotton, wheat and tobacco total 194 million as of Feb. 1st. Payments on corn and hog reduction have not yet been tabulated. Preliminary figures however on wheat cotton and tobacco show that southern states have fared well. Texas 46 million dollars for cotton and wheat; Oklahoma 15 million; Kansas 15 million; Arkansas 11 million; Mississippi 10 million; Alabama 10 million; Georgia 8 million. Illinois has received 1½ million on wheat reduction. This will be enlarged considerably when hog-corn checks are issued. However, in proportion to the amount paid by Illinois in the form of income and excise and internal revenue taxes for the support of the Government, it will receive far less than most states and infinitely less than the southern states.

ACTORS AND ACTRESSES. The depression has also affected the stage. Hundreds of actors and actresses are unemployed. Meanwhile producers have managed to engage European players at salaries far below the level of American stage salaries and have continued to bring such actors and actresses to the United States because the present law permits them to enter for six months periods, by merely affirming before an American consul that they are actors, artists, singers, musicians. A bill now pending before the Immigration Committee provides for their exclusion under the contract labor provisions of the law unless they are distinguished or celebrated in their particular fields. Hearings have been of interest and among witnesses heard by the Committee were drama critics, playwrights, actors and actresses of distinction.

IMPENDING BATTLE. On January 12, the House passed the Independent Offices Appropriation Bill providing funds for the operation of various independent establishments of the government, salaries etc. This bill also contained appropriations for veterans and provided that the pay cut of all Federal employees should continue until July 1st, when 5% would be restored. The House was determined to liberalize these provisions but the bill was considered under the gag rule, which rule passed by the narrow margin of 6 votes. The bill was reported in the Senate on Feb. 12, where no gag rules obtain. Republican and Democratic Senators joined hands in the revolt and amendments were added to the bill providing for a 5% restoration of pay to Federal employees on Feb. 1st and the other 10% on July 1st; restored the 25% payout imposed on service connected war veterans by the Economy Act; restored about 23,000 insane and tubercular veterans who had been removed from pension rolls by the Special Review Boards set up under the Economy Act, restored the pensions of Spanish War veterans and their widows and orphans to 90% of what they were receiving prior to the passage of the Economy Act, gave to all veterans, whether their disabilities were service connected or not the right to be hospitalized in Veterans hospitals if they had no money to pay for such treatment, and in general completely liberalized the Economy Act. The bill with attached amendments passed the Senate by a vote of 41 to 40. It was thus returned to the House for action. Ordinarily

the procedure would be to call it up at once for action on the amendments. However the Speaker and leaders knew the attitude of the President and underauthority vested in the Speaker, the bill was referred back to the House appropriations Committee. This was an unusual practice which had not been used for years. It looked a bit transparent and at once, a petition was filed so that the Committee might be discharged and the bill brought to the floor. Heated accusations and charges flew freely, that it was an attempt to thwart the will of Congress. Leaders promised to bring the bill out but meanwhile it is resting in Committee and the rules experts are probably laboring on some kind of procedure to bring it forth with additional amendments, in the hope that it will not be subject to the desire of House members to freely amend it. If it is amended again, it must go back to the Senate. Administration leaders are hopeful that the bill can be passed without a rollcall vote.

PERSONALITIES. Senator Huey (Kingfish) Long fairly roars and bristles when he speaks on the floor of the Senate. Senator Borah has aged much in the last year. Congressional mail and telegrams is reported to be heavier now than during the war. Of a total of 526 bills on the Private calendar, consisting of various kinds of claims against the U.S. only 59 were disposed of at a three hour night session on March 1st. One claim has been on the calendar since 1913. This is a fair indication of the laborious slowness of procedure. At 4:00 p.m. Friday March 2, with only 69 members present the House considered a short bill extending the authority of the Federal Reserve to use government obligations for collateral in the issuance of Federal Reserve notes. The authority expired on March 3, 1934 and by terms of the bill was to be extended for three years. An amendment was offered to limit the time to three months until the bill could be properly considered. On a division vote, the amendment was lost by one vote. Tellors were demanded. Not enough members arose to obtain a tellor vote. The proposer of the amendment made the point of no quorum. The bells rang. The roll was being called. Members left their offices and their dinners to come to the floor. A motion was made to close the debate. The motion lost. The debate began in earnest. Cries of "cramming legislation down Congressional throats by the Banking Committee without proper deliberation were heard." The situation grew worse. Pandemonium reigned. At seven o'clock the majority leader moved to adjourn. The bill was not passed. The penalty was that members were denied a Saturday vacation so that they might spend entire day in their offices devoting time to mail and the study of bills to come up the following week.