

6/6/36

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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NOMINATIONS FOR VICE PRESIDENT. So much interest and importance attaches to the Presidency that the Vice Presidency is a kind of forgotten office. Yet it is of vast importance. The incapacitation or death of the President would automatically elevate the Vice President to the Presidency. Tyler became President when William Henry Harrison died in office; Fillmore acceded to the Presidency on the death of Zachary Taylor. Johnson was elevated when Lincoln was assassinated; Arthur succeeded Garfield; Theodore Roosevelt entered the White House with the death of McKinley; Coolidge rose to power with the death of Harding. Eight Vice Presidents died in office and one resigned. Clinton (Madison) died in 1812, Gerry (Madison's second term) died in 1814; Calhoun (Jackson's second term) resigned to go to the Senate; King (Pierce) died in 1853; Wilson (Grant's second term) died in 1875; Hendricks (Cleveland's first term) died in 1885. Hobart (McKinley's first term) died in 1899 and Sherman (Taft) died in 1912. This is a high rate of mortality over a period of 147 years.

BANKRUPT CITIES. Early in 1934, the mayors of many cities that were bankrupt and could neither meet their debts or secure credit to carry on municipal functions came to Washington and insisted upon legislation whereby these cities could set up a plan to reorganize their fiscal affairs. The plan finally enacted was the Wilcox Municipal Bankruptcy Act, under which cities could reorganize, secure approval of the plan from the Federal Court and from the city's creditors. Two thirds of the creditors had to approve the plan to make it effective. The act applied to cities, counties, school districts, local improvement districts and other political subdivisions. Down in Texas was a county having \$800,000 in bonds outstanding and no way to pay. A plan was formulated under which the holders of the bonds would accept 50¢ on the dollar. Two thirds of the bondholders approved the plan. Along came bondholders holding only 10% of the bonds stating that the whole act was unconstitutional. They took their case to the courts. Ultimately it reached the Supreme Court of the U.S. By a 5 to 4 decision, the court ruled that the act was unconstitutional on the ground that it constituted Federal interference with the sovereign powers of states because cities, counties and other political subdivisions are created by state law. The court decision, however, is not so important from a practical standpoint as has been indicated because only a 100 cities, counties and other subdivisions made application for the benefits of the act. At the time this legislation was enacted it was represented that nearly 2500 cities in the U.S. were hopelessly bankrupt.

TTTTING. "The Mormons must be treated as enemies, and must be exterminated or driven from the state, if necessary for the public good." Such was the order issued by Governor Boggs of Missouri to General Clark, head of the Missouri Militia in October of 1838. Execution of the order is one of the sad blots on American history. The Mormons crossed the river and settled at Nauvoo, Illinois. In Nauvoo, Joseph and Hyrum Smith, founders of the faith were murdered by a mob. Once more they took up their journey. In 1847, they wintered at Council Bluffs, where 600 graves mark the severity of the winter they experienced. Westward they went in the Spring to settle in Utah, Wyoming and Arizona, to build up a civilization of their own and make the desert to yield riches and faith. Theirs is today a far-flung enterprise, centering about the magnificent temple at Salt Lake City, Utah. Recently, the Elders of the Church, concerned about the effect of relief and relief work on the morale of their members, conducted a survey, and found that 88,460 Mormons (17.9% of the total membership of the church partaking of some form of relief) and decided to remedy this condition by providing their own relief. A plan was laid out, providing for employment in mining camps, on sugar beet plantations, in logging and lumber camps. But that costs money. From whence shall these funds come? Back they go to the admonitions of the prophet Malachi who said, "Bring ye tithes in the storehouse..." Which means that each shall give one tenth of all that he earns to what they deem to be the Lord's work. Mormons intend to handle their own relief burdens and not look to the government.

NOVEL MATERIALS EXHIBIT. Uncle Sam has, and is continuing to build billions of dollars worth of buildings. A host of architects and draughtsmen are constantly at work, year in and year out on plans and specifications. Collectively, these men have a wealth of information on all types of material. Those with sufficient imagination, can tell from samples of materials, what the finished building will be like. The unimaginative are not so fortunate. A materials exhibit, with various types of materials set in place would be of great assistance. Some one with vision caught the idea, hit upon the notion of having building supply factories and producers furnish the necessary materials for such an exhibit. Today it is a reality on the 5th floor of the Procurement Division headquarters. Here you will find a Marble Room, containing virtually every type of American marble, including a huge table and lamp of marble. Here is an Exterior Stone Room showing how 191 different types of marble, granite and stone will look, with floors of colored cast stone and slate. Here is a Face Brick Room with hundreds of varieties from every part of the nation. Here is an Aluminum Room with aluminum lamps, sash, curtains, blinds and chairs. Here is the Tile Room, showing the amazing effects to be achieved with tile. Here is the Lumber Room, with paneling of 26 kinds of domestic woods, so highly polished that one can see himself, and all done in tricky designs to warm the cockles of any woodworkers heart. Here is the Glazed Brick Room, the Terra Cotta Room, the Structural Glass Room, the Stainless Steel Room. Truly a magnificent library for architects and builders everywhere and the only one of its kind in the world.

CONGRESSIONAL GENIUS. We once heard of an ingenious person who by sheer but somewhat doubtful logic could prove that all the wars of the last 200 years were due to the fact that the world had not universally adopted the metric system of weights and measures. Last week, we listened as a member of Congress advocated a memorial for Thomas Jefferson, told how the money could be secured from higher taxes, pointed out how these taxes could be imposed on large salaries of corporation presidents, cited the fact that railroad presidents received huge salaries, that despite these high salaries, railroad were trying to demolish the M & L St. Railroads, wound up by alleging a conspiracy to dismember this railroad, and then called for an investigation. That's rhetorical genius.

WEALTHIEST SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION. A bill appeared on one of the House calendars to make provision for a national celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of one Charles Carroll, wealthiest signer of the Declaration of Independence. When it came on for consideration, there was an avalanche of protest. The idea! Memorializing a rich man! Then it was discovered that Charles Carroll, wealthiest signer, had placed his whole fortune at the disposal of the Colonies in their struggle for independence. That was different. A rich man offering everything he had for the cause of liberty. The celebration will probably be approved.

WHO WAS CAPT. MOSES ROGERS. An appropriation was requested from Congress to build a monument to Capt. Moses Rogers. Who was he? He was born in Connecticut in 1789 and became the engineer and captain of Robert Fulton's "Clermont" the first successfully operated steamboat. He was also the first man to take a steamboat across the Atlantic. In 1818, the year Illinois was admitted to the Union, Captain Rogers got a business firm in Savannah, Ga. to finance an ocean-going steamboat. It had a 90 horse power engine, was a side-wheeler with wheels on both sides, much like modern river steamers. No passengers would make the trip. The cargo consisted of 200 bales of cotton. The trip was made in 29 days. Compare this with the Queen Mary which docked in New York only a few days ago after a record run. Capt. Rogers was in every sense one of the pioneers on the basis of whose achievement, the super liners of today grace the seven seas.

TAX DISPLACEMENT. One of the great problems of today is the displacement of taxable values in a state by the Federal Government. For example, the Housing Division of the PWA comes to a town, buys real estate valued at a million dollars, erects a low-cost housing unit, and rents it to people who cannot afford to pay high rentals. Under our systems of government, the Federal Government and the State Government are both sovereign in their respective domains. States cannot tax government property, government cannot tax state property. Before this Housing unit was acquired by the Government, it afforded a tidy sum in taxes to the city, county, school districts, and state in which located. Once taken over by Uncle Sam, it is no longer taxable. The more of such property that is acquired by the Federal Government, the less there is for states to tax. Hence, other property must pay higher taxes, to yield the amount of revenue that might be required. To remedy this, Congress is proposing a law, authorizing the PWA on the request of any state, city, county or other political subdivision to enter into an agreement whereby the Federal Government will pay to such state, city, county or subdivision an amount which is equal to 5% of the gross rentals from such a project, or an amount equal to the real property taxes levied against such property for the last tax year.

COURT RULING CREATES HUGE TASK. When the nine learned men on the Supreme Court pitch one of Congress' brainchildren out of the window with the stamp of disapproval on it, that's not exactly the end of the matter. Witness the voiding of the Agricultural Adjustment Act. The original act carried a provision that no refund or recovery of any amounts paid or collected under that act should be allowed unless the claimant established to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue that the processor or claimant had born the economic burden of the tax for which he might seek a refund. Under that act, about 850 millions in processing taxes, 98 millions in floor stocks taxes and 12 millions in compensating taxes were paid. About 73,000 firms and persons paid processing taxes, 75,000 paid compensating taxes, and about 1,000,000 paid floor stocks taxes. Now comes the stupendous task of setting up the machinery, under which claims can be filed for a refund of these taxes, the holding of hearings, the determination of the cases, the provision for appeal to the courts, and final payment where refunds are allowed. It is proposed therefore to set up offices in the various tax collection districts of the country, in charge of a person designated by the Com'r of Internal Revenue to hold these hearings. It will cost a lot of money, and require years of effort before the wreckage of that decision is cleared away.

"JOE" BYRNS. (Personal tribute to the late Speaker) Twinkling eyes, a face lined with the character that results from the steady upward climb to solid achievement, a resounding laugh, a vast capacity for appreciating little things and big things, a man who never lost his touch with the people, a multitude of friends who not merely liked him but quietly revered him, a kindly sympathy for youngsters in Congress, a simple rugged faith as boundless as the skies, a man. A Speaker, so human, that he would call younger members to the Speaker's rostrum and help them with their problems. His shrine - in the hearts of all who knew him.