

9/1/35
[June 15, 1935]

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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16th District.

ANTI-SMUGGLING BILL. When the 18th amendment was repealed, it was expected that the smuggling of illegal liquor into this country would cease or be reduced to negligible amounts. That expectation did not materialize. In fact, the Treasury Department which is charged with the patrol of our borders and coastline to prevent smuggling estimates that 2½ million gallons of high proof alcohol are smuggled in every year. The duty on 190 proof alcohol is \$9.50 per gallon and the revenue tax is \$3.90 making a total of \$13.30 per 190 proof gallon revenue of which the Treasury is deprived. In addition, this alcohol is purchased in foreign countries and offshore islands for from 25¢ to 50¢ per gallon, is sold at low prices here, is cut several times, bottled and then sold to the public under deceptive and spurious labels at low prices to the demoralization of the legitimate liquor industry. Estimates of revenue losses thro smuggling range from 30 to 100 million dollars annually. Vessels in the illegal liquor business, carefully remain beyond the 12 mile limit where they are safe from molestation or seizure by the coast guard patrols. Aided by darkness and by the fact that our entire Coast Guard for the patrol of 10,000 miles of coastline consists of only 10,000 men, they sneak thru, land their cargoes and skip away. To remedy this condition, the House this week passed a bill, extended the customs area 50 miles seaward beyond the 12 mile limit and 100 miles coastwise in each direction from the smuggling vessel. All of which proves that liquor is still a problem.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES CONFERENCE. Recently, the U. S. Bureau of Standards which spends millions annually in testing products, standardizing weights and measures and conducting scientific investigations called a conference of state officials who are concerned with the enforcement of weights and measures in various states. The Conference receive little if any publicity and yet it dealt with one of the most vital problems in the country today, namely the standardization and labelling of containers to protect the American consumer. It displayed containers showing how one basket which looks just as large as another basket contained fewer potatoes, how a bottle containing one ounce of flavoring extract was larger than a bottle containing two ounces, how large packages of food products contained less than smaller packages because they were only partially full. This conference may point the way to the future. Some day, the interstate commerce clause in the Constitution may be used to regulate the size of packages, bottles, bars of soap and what not whenever shipped in interstate commerce.

RAINEY PORTRAIT. It is a custom to have a portrait made of the Speaker of the House and hang it in the House corridor. In that corridor, visitors to the national Capital may see the portrait of every Speaker for many years back. Of the late Speaker Henry T. Rainey of Illinois, five portraits were made and have been on exhibition in the office of the Library Committee for some time. This Committee will make the selection. Recently, the Committee notified the artists that they would be permitted to make last minute alterations or additions to their handiwork before the Committee made it's selection. So incensed was some local art connoisseur over this procedure that he wrote quite a caustic criticism for one of the Washington papers, pointing out that in France, such procedure would have caused a riot. No riot is however apparent in Washington.

INTERSTATE COMPACTS. A new form of legislation is appearing on the horizon which may in the immediate years to come, have not only a significant effect upon our economic and industrial destiny but may conceivably develop a more intensive sectional feeling and development. This form of legislation is the so-called legislative compact. About a year ago, Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and other New England states sent representatives to a meeting at Concord, New Hampshire for the purpose of discussing their similarity of interests and to draw up a compact between these states dealing with standardization and uniformity of hours, wages, and conditions of labor. The compact is in the form of a proposed law and was submitted to the legislatures of the states that were parties to this compact for ratification. As soon as it was ratified, it was submitted to the Congress for approval, where it is pending at the present time. When passed by Congress, it has the force of law in those states which are parties to the agreement and moreover, seems to be expressly sanctioned by the Constitution. If it works out successfully, it may be the forerunner of similar compacts. For instance, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, and Iowa having similar interests might develop just such an agreement or compact.

HISTORY OF AN AMENDMENT. In January of 1934, the House was considering a bill to authorize a larger Navy. Congressman Tobey, formerly Governor of New Hampshire, profoundly interested in doing some constructive thing to promote peace and eliminate the possibilities of graft and corruption in shipbuilding contracts proposed an amendment limiting the profits on naval vessels to 10%. The amendment was adopted by the House. The bill then went to the Senate for hearings and was referred to the Naval Affairs Committee. There was submitted to that Committee a letter from the Assistant Secretary of War opposing the amendment and two admirals joined in the opposition. The Tobey amendment was finally approved by the sub-committee and the full Senate Naval Affairs Committee. The amendment

was approved by the Senate. The bill then went to a conference committee of both Houses to iron out differences. While in conference, the Director of the Budget sent down a proposed amendment to the conferees suggesting a new amendment which would have nullified the Tobey amendment. Rep. Tobey called on the Budget Director and the amendment was withdrawn. The conference committee finally agreed on a report and sent their reports back to the two Houses. In that report, they wrote a provision into the bill to defer its effective date for 90 days, during which time millions of dollars worth of contracts could have been awarded without regard for the 10% profit limitation. Rep. Tobey objected on the ground that this was the same as writing new legislation into a bill and that the conference committee exceeded its authority. Speaker Rainey sustained Rep. Tobey's position. The Naval Bill, containing the Tobey amendment thereafter became law. On June 12th, 1935, the Naval Affairs Committee of the House reported a bill to amend the original Vinson Naval Bill which among other things (1) exempts scientific equipment used for communication, target detection, navigation, and fire control as may be designated by the Secretary of the Navy from the provisions of the 10% profit limitation and (2) permits naval contractors to charge off losses in any one year against profits in the next taxable year and to use such losses as an offset. All of which means that the 10% limitation adopted in 1934 will be gradually made meaningless.

DOTS AND DASHES. A bill has been introduced in Congress to incorporate the "Women World War Veterans." About 250 women from many states of the union are the incorporators.... The war between Bolivia and Paraguay in South America which was recently concluded by a truce in which the United States was instrumental sprang out of a boundary dispute that had been raging for 50 years. The war lasted for three years, cost 100,000 lives and was referred to as the Green Hell because the territory known as the Gran Chaco in which the war was carried on is an almost inaccessible wilderness..... The residents of Washington, D. C. who do not have the right to vote (and for a very good reason) never lose an opportunity to present their case in favor of being given this right and during the Shrine Convention, some Washington newspapers used lots of space to acquaint the visiting guests with that fact.

CONSTITUTIONAL FACTS. Our first form of government was the Articles of Confederation. It was nothing more than an association of the original 13 states under which they selected a Congress with very limited powers. Each state had one vote in the Congress. There was no President and no Federal Court System. States were jealous of each other and would not cooperate. In fact, one can still see the toll houses on main highways or turnpikes in the east where each state collected a toll or duty on cabbage, firewood, molasses, livestock and other items that came from neighboring states. Congress could not compel the states to contribute to pay off the first war debt and with accrued interest, the debt grew larger. Soldiers were paid in worthless money and wondered whether it would ever have any value. Money lenders who took Continental bonds for the money they loaned to finance the war of independence saw their bonds steadily depreciate in value. There was no army and no navy. Indians were hostile and the land from the Alleghenies to the Mississippi could not be safely settled. British merchants dumped their goods on us after the war and Congress had no power to levy tariffs and protect our infant industries. Leaders saw the need for a stronger central government and sent out a call in 1786 for delegates to come to a convention to revise the Articles of Confederation. Only five states sent delegates. In 1787 another call went out for delegates to meet at Philadelphia. The states named 62 delegates. Only 55 attended. They worked for 4 months. The sessions were secret. When they finished, they had formulated the Constitution. It contains about 4000 words and is divided into seven Articles. After the preamble or statement of purpose, the Constitution provides for a Congress or legislative branch and defines its powers, a President or executive branch, a court system or the judicial power, sets forth the rights of the states, provides for amendments, sets out some general laws, and then provides for ratification by at least nine states before it could become effective. The Constitution became our form of government in 1787. It has been amended 21 times. In 1791, the first ten amendments were added guaranteeing personal rights of worship, free speech, etc. In 1798 the 11th amendment forbade Federal Courts to hear cases in which a citizen sued another state or where a state was sued by the citizen of a foreign country. As a result of the Civil War, the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments were added in the years from 1865 to 1868 dealing in general with the rights of the liberated negroes. For 45 years no other amendments were added. Then in 1913, the 16th amendment dealing with the income tax and the 17th providing for the direct election of U. S. Senators was added. On January 16, 1920, came the famous 18th amendment. In the summer of 1920, the 19th amendment conferred equal suffrage on women. On February 6, 1933, the 20th amendment abolished lame duck sessions of Congress so that Congressional and Senatorial terms end on the 3rd of January and the terms of the President and Vice President end on January 20th instead of

the 4th of March. On December 5, 1933 the 21st amendment became effective repealing the 18th amendment. The remarkable thing is that in the expansion period from the Civil War until 1913, - a period of 45 years - we went thru three major panics, reached the pinnacle of world leadership and never once amended the Constitution.

FILIBUSTERS, such as that conducted by Huey P. Long in the Senate cannot happen in the House. The amount of time for debate on any bill or an amendment is limited either by the standing rules of the House or by action of the Rules Committee, which determines those matters in advance. For the most part, a House filibuster is a sorry affair and is limited to making points of no quorum so that the roll must be called (this takes about 45 minutes), insisting that the Journal of the day's proceedings be read at length and a few other dilatory motions. In the Senate however, there is no cloture on debate and hence, one Senator can filibuster until his energy runs down. Huey's filibuster was in a sense the longest on record. While Senator LaFollette filibustered for 18 hours in 1908 on the Aldrich-Vreeland Currency Bill, he had help from other Senators and in addition, his speech was broken by 30 roll calls which consumed almost 5 hours. If in the course of such an all-night filibuster, a point of no quorum is made and the roll call shows that a quorum is not present, the Sergeant-at-arms is empowered to go to the homes or apartments of the members arouse them from their slumbers and compel them to return to the session.