There is thunder on the left. For that matter there is thunder on the right. In fact, there is thunder all around but it remains to be seen whether it spells a real storm. For months the TNEC (meaning the Temporary National Economic Committee) has been in session. It is generally referred to as the Monopoly Investigating Committee. It consists of Senators, Congressmen and Departmental experts. It has investigated the licensing of patents. It has investigated the big insurance companies. It has investigated prices. And this week it has begun the investigation of financial control. This phase of the investigation will go into the matter of stagnation of capital, methods for the release of idle funds, new methods for the expenditure of government funds, and the difficulties of small business men in obtaining capital funds. After that, the experts will rush in with legislative proposals. Yes folks, there is thunder all about and in the next few months, it would be reasonable to expect the Administration to suggest some highly explosive proposals to dislodge the stagnation which now exists in the land.

WHAT PRICE JAILS
When repeal of the 18th amendment was proposed, it was said that it would reduce the number of people going to prison each year. The author of that statement did not take account of other legislation under which people are sent to prison. Since 1933, 2295 persons were convicted of violations of the AAA, WPA, SEC, FHA and other civil enactments of Congress containing penalty clauses. Still others were convicted of violating the Motor Carriers Act, the Federal Communications Act, the Hot-Oil Act, the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and many others. Federal prisoners increase at the rate of a 1000 per year. That means new prisons. New prisons mean new taxes. The value of the Federal prison plant today is about $70,000,000 and it grows annually. The capital investment for each prisoner is about $2750 and this does not include the maintenance cost of $1.16 per day. It's a pertinent question: What price jails?

THE GENTLEWOMAN FROM NEW JERSEY WITHDRAWS HER BILL
Mrs. Mary T. Norton, Member of Congress from New Jersey is Chairman of the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives. To her and her Committee fell the task of piloting a bill thru the House containing various amendments to the Wage-Hour Act. The amendments had been suggested by the Wage Hour Division in the Department of Labor and apparently had White House approval. When the bill was ready, there came the question of how to get it thru the House without having it slaughtered or amended with countless changes and modifications. In general the bill provided additional powers for the Wage Hour Administrator, gave him power to determine piece work rates on certain kinds of home-work, gave him power to make exemptions relative to overtime in the case of companies which had voluntary and constant wage plans, exempted from the Act those employees who had a guaranteed salary of $200 per month or more, set up certain exemptions for small telephone companies in rural areas, exempted the bona fide purchaser of goods made in violation of the Wage-Hour Act if he did not know it, and modified the exemptions relating to agriculture. The Gentlewoman from New Jersey decided to call up the bill under a suspension of the rules. Under this procedure debate is limited to 40 minutes and no amendments can be offered but it takes a two-thirds vote instead of a majority to pass the bill. Many of the amendments were not controversial. But the amendments relating to agriculture were highly controversial. On the day that the bill was to be called up, there appeared on the desk of every member a memorandum indicating that five farm organizations were vigorously opposed to the
measure in the form in which it was offered. The full membership was on the floor as the time arrived to call up the bill. Instead, the Gentlewoman of New Jersey, after stating that there was propaganda against the bill, withdrew it and took it back to the bosom of the Committee. There it reposes, awaiting the next move.

HE IS ONLY 37.

His name is Constantine Alexandrovitch Oumansky. He is but 37. He becomes the new ambassador of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics to the United States. He will be the eyes and ears of Stalin. He succeeds Alexander Troyunovskii who had been the ambassador who did not return to the U.S. after his return to the USSR in 1938. Oumansky has been an editor, an artist and a newspaper man. He speaks French, German, Italian, English and American fluently. He goes in for lavish entertainments. He has a good alert mind. Born in 1902, he was but 15 at the time of the Russian Revolution. He believes in the efficacy of the Socialist doctrines of his country. He is swarthy, and stout. He will preside over the huge Russian embassy on 16th Street in Washington, only a few blocks from the White House. It was originally built by Mrs. Florence Pullman, widow of George M. Pullman of Pullman-car fame. From this swanky edifice, Oumansky carries the bull for the USSR.

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