TOLL OF A SINGLE YEAR

"Public life takes its toll..." The slings and arrows of political fortune leave their indelible marks upon the physical stamina of the nation's lawmakers. At the very great weak spot as it suddenly ceases to carry on in the midst of legislative turmoil, another new name is added to the list of those who pass on to that land where there are no roll calls, no previous questions, no amendments, no committee meetings. Those who have departed to that...Greater...are honored each year as a day in set.

This year those ceremonies were held on May 29. Twenty-one of the 530 members of the House and Senate have answered the last roll call. They constitute 4% of the entire membership. A heavy toll in a single year.

HOLC, VS. UHOLC

When distress swept thru the land beginning in 1932, and foreclosures grew at an alarming rate, the Congress created the Home Owners Loan Corporation, provided it with three billion dollars and broad authority to take over foreclosures and save the homes of our citizens. More than one million loans were made. Then came the painful duty of repaying the money in monthly installments, even at the rate that it be repaid to private lenders or building and loan associations.

Thousands—jobless or whose earnings had not improved were in no better condition to repay the HOLC than were they to repay the original lender. HOLC was generous and indulgent, permitted thousand of defaults to 60 month adjustments. Delinquencies grew in number and amount. It was not the money and HOLC knew that an accounting must be made so it instituted foreclosures.

It estimated that as many as 160,000 mortgage certificates must be filed. Suddenly there was organized in New York a UHOLC. It stands for United Home Owners Loan Corporation. UHOLC prepared a bill and had it introduced in both houses of Congress. The bill provides for a reduction in interest rates from 5% to 2%, extension of time of payment from 5 years to 30 years, and an indefinite moratorium against foreclosure.

UHOLC is distributing copies of the bill to all H.O.L.C. borrowers and seeking to enlist them in UHOLC at an entrance fee of $5 and dues of 25c a month. HOLC points out that the reduction in interest rate will cause a deficit of $52 million. Extension of time of payment will increase the deficit even more.

HISTORY IS SO STRANGELY MADE

On March 8, 1935 the House took up the so-called Consent Calendar of committees. The calendar contains an infinite variety of bills from the various committees of the House. The danger of enacting for consideration of a bill on this calendar is that any member of the House can object with Congress what he deemed to be the relief 'needs' for which Congress must appropriate funds.

HEARINGS—On Thursday, May 6, 1937, a sub-committee of the Appropriations Committee of the House began hearings on the estimate for relief. The sub-committee consisted of nine members. Witnesses had been notified to appear to testify. Before that committee came Henry A. Wallace, the Secretary of Agriculture and Mr. Alexander, Director of the Re-estate Administration. Also came Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Gray and others in the Re-estate Administration. Also came Harry Hopkins to testify at great length and provide facts and figures on relief of the other needs. Also came the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Federation of Labor, the Workers Alliance of America, members of the House.

The hearings were concluded and the sub-committee went into executive session to draw up a bill.

THE BILL IS DRAWN—After many days, the sub-committee completed the bill. It provided one billion dollars for relief, and earmarked various amounts for buildings, flood control, wages, public works, and the National Youth Administration. It also carried various restrictions of employment of aliens, salaries for relief administrators, and a restriction on use of relief funds to rebuild, repair or construct penal and reformatory institutions in states where goods are produced to be sold in competition with free labor. There was a close fight in the sub-committee as to whether the total amount should be a billion or one and one half billions. The billion amount was nixed. In that form it was reported to the full Appropriations Committee.

FULL COMMITTEE—The committee met in closed session. Rep. Woodrum of Virginia led the discussion by defending the one billion. Rep. Cannon of Missouri undertook to have it increased to one and one half billions. A furious debate ensued. Committee membesr joined in. The session became warm and spirited. The vote was taken and by a reasonable close vote the full committee overrode the sub-committee and increased the amount to one and one half billions. In that form it was reported to the House.

ON THE FLOOR—(First Day) On May 30th, the bill came to the floor of the House under an agreement for four hours of general debate and discussion, after which the bill was to be read for amendment. The debate centered primarily around the gross amount to be expended for relief. Rep. Woodrum contended for the billion. Rep. Cannon contended for the one and one half billion. Others contended for large or smaller amounts. Only a portion of the four hours was consumed and on Friday, the 21st, the general debate was concluded.

(Second Day) After conclusion of the debate, reading of the bill, sec-
or his objection, and one such objection disposed of the bill. On the Consent Calendar for that eventful day was House Resolution 5161. It had been considered and reported by the Judiciary Committee of the House. That bill provided for the retirement of Supreme Court Justices on full pay at age 70 after having served for ten years. The clerk of the House called that bill by its title. The Speaker of the House intoned, "Is there objection?" Rep. Thomas L. Blanton of Texas (not now a member) rose to his feet and reserved the right to object. He began to expound late about handing a sop to judges in high position, about the 10 million dollar Supreme Court Building, about other things.

The distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee made a statement and an explanation. Then Rep. Blanton and Rep. Zioncheck (now deceased) engaged in a squabble about the bill. "Is there objection?" asked the Speaker once more. "I object," roared the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Blanton. There was some reason to believe that if the bill had been enacted, certain aged justices, with this assurance of retirement pay equal to their salaries, would retire from the Court. The bill failed. The Justices did not retire. Other 5 to 4 decisions were rendered adverse to the administration.

On February 5, 1887 came a message from The President to Congress providing for an increase in the number of Supreme Court Justices. Then came storm, controversy, bitterness, struggle. Perhaps Toccas Blanton unwittingly made history of March 4, 1887.

RELIEF PILGRIM PROGRESS.

It might be interesting to a blow-by-blow account of the most contoversial bill which has been before the House of Representatives during the present session. It's in the nature of a personally conducted tour. It concerns the bill to provide one and one half billion dollars for relief purposes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1887.

GERMINATION—Mr. Harry Hopkins is the Federal Relief Administrator. He presides over that far flung operation known as the WPA. He probably knows more about relief than any other person in the land. During the time he came to provide funds for relief for the next fiscal year, he conferred with the President. The Budget Bureau officials also conferred. There was then born the idea that one and one half billions of dollars, which together with about 225 million of dollars left over from relief appropriations for the previous fiscal year would be sufficient for relief purposes. The President then indicated in his budget message to

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