ADJOURNMENT. In a short time, the 2nd session of the 74th Congress will adjourn. It will mark the end of the second Congress of the Roosevelt administration and the 74th Congress since Washington was the President. At the end of every legislative day, a motion is made to adjourn and Congress then suspends its labors until the following day. But one day soon, a different motion to adjourn will be made. It will be a motion to adjourn sine die. That simply means to adjourn without an appointed day. There will be a great fanfare. It will doubtless happen. The corridors and hallways will be packed. There will be songs and leave takings. Members will repair to their homes for the approaching campaign. And on January 3rd, 1937, the 75th Congress will convene even as other Congresses have done, to carry on where the previous Congress left off.

PRELIMINARY SURVEY. At the close of Congress, newspapers will carry rather detailed summaries of the measures that were passed. It might not be amiss however to present a preliminary survey of the more important measures at this time. The number of measures enacted will not be so great as in previous sessions but are perhaps far more important in their implications.

APPROPRIATIONS. When the session closes, Congress will have enacted 11 appropriation bills. Amounts stated are approximate because of the possibility that as they left the House, these bills were increased or decreased in the Senate. The Independent Offices bill, providing funds for the Interstate Commerce Commission, Veterans Administration, Federal Trade Commission and a host of other independent agencies which do not come within the jurisdiction of any cabinet department will carry about 950 millions; The Supplemental Deficiency Appropriation Bill providing funds for various government agencies which ran short of funds or which were given new tasks and new functions to perform will be about 60 millions. The Interior Department Bill, covering Reclamation, Irrigation, Indian Affairs, Education, Mines and Mining, Alaska, Territories and other items will aggregate about 143 millions. Appropriations for the Post Office and Treasury Department will be approximately 975 million. For the War Department, funds for non-military activities such as flood control, Panama Canal, engineering etc. will be about 200 millions; for national defense there will be provision for about 375 millions. For the Department of Agriculture, not including the cost of soil conservation, the total will reach 170 millions. The Departments of State, Justice, Commerce and Labor are all consolidated in one appropriation bill. The former embraces such items as our diplomatic service and passport divisions. The Department of Justice includes prisons, G-men and the Federal attorneys in different sections of the country. The Department of Commerce includes the Bureau of Census, the Bureau of Air Commerce, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Bureau of Standards, Bureau of Fisheries, the Patent Office and a host of others. The Department of Labor includes many agencies on child welfare, woman's welfare, labor standards, immigration and naturalization, employment services and mediation boards for labor disputes. Total for these four departments will be about 116 millions. For the Navy, including cost of new vessels, about 531 millions. For the legislative branch, 23 millions. For the District of Columbia, approximately 43 millions. And finally, the deficiency bill which is a sort of catchall, in which appropriations are made to cover new legislation, new agencies that have been created and new needs. In this bill are the items for relief, for the Tennessee Valley Authority, Social Security, emergency conservation work(CCC) and for public buildings. It is the largest of all appropriation bills and will contain about 2 and one fifth billions. These appropriations take effect on July 1st 1936. By the time they become effective, the national debt will be approximately 36 billion dollars. This is 10 billion more than the national debt at the end of the World War.

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE BILLS. To classify bills in the order of their importance is manifestly impossible. That is a matter of individual viewpoint. They are presented here in the order in which they passed the House. First came the Adjusted Compensation Payment Act.(Bonus) It provides for payment of the balance of the bonus with interest charges cancelled and will require approximately two and one fifth billions. Then came a measure to repeal the Tobacco, Cotton and Potato Acts passed in 1935. Their repeal was occasioned by the action of the Supreme Court in invalidating the AAA. Then came the Soil Conservation Act, to replace the AAA. It provides payments for diverting the use of land from cash crops such as corn, wheat, cotton, to soil enriching and soil conserving crops such as clover, soybeans and the like. Total annual cost is estimated to be about 400 million dollars. Then came the passage of the "long-short-
haul-clause repeal" bill, repealing the 4th section of the Transport-
ation Act of 1920. Railroads, and railroad workers were vitally inter-
ested. This measure is now pending before a Senate Committee and may
die. Then came a resolution to extend the neutrality act of 1935. A
new neutrality measure had been prepared and extensive hearings were
held but Congress fell to wrangling over the matter with the result
that the act of 1935, with some amendments was continued by resolution
until Congress could give the matter further study. Then followed the
Revenue or Tax Act of 1936, repealing certain existing taxes and subs-
stituting others. As originally introduced and passed in the House, it
carried high taxes on undistributed corporate surpluses and was expect-
ed to yield 620 millions annually in new permanent revenues. This new
revenue is required to pay the cost of the soil conservation act and
the bonus. The Rural Electrification Act sets up a ten year program
for electrifying agricultural areas and electrical facilities to the farms of the
nation at a cost of approximately 350 millions. The above measures, can
properly be designated as the major acts of this session.

PENDING BILLS. There are now pending, either in the House, in the Senate
In the committee, or in a conference committee of both houses, a number
of bills, some of which will be enacted and some of which may fall by
the wayside. The Robinson-Ratman, Price Discrimination Bill has already
passed the Senate, will doubtless pass the House and be enacted into
law unless vetoed by the President. A flood control bill, authorizing
an expenditure of approximately 390 millions, partly 380 millions of which
will be expended along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers has already
passed both houses and is now in conference. It will doubtless become a
law. The Pure Food and Drugs Act is hanging in the balance.

PENDING MAJOR BILLS. Pending in the House or Senate or in a committee
or in a conference committee a number of major bills. Among these are
the Flood Control Bill which will doubtless become law. Many drainage
districts along the Illinois and Mississippi rivers will obtain mater-
ial benefits from this measure. The Robinson-Ratman Price Discrimina-
tion Bill, aimed to prevent unlawful trade practices has passed both
houses and will most likely become law. The Pure Food & Drug Bill is
hanging in the balance and its chances of passage are not favorable.
The Merchant Marine Bill, which has had a stormy career in the Senate
may also be dumped overboard. The new Guffey Cool Bill, similar to the
earlier Guffey Bill with the labor provisions stricken is pending in a
House Committee. Assuming that no snarls develops on other legislation
which might delay adjournment, this measure may also fall by the way-
side.

MINOR BILLS. This session of Congress attained the usual average on
minor bills. They will probably total three or four hundred in number
and will deal with every conceivable phase of governmental and private act-
ivity such as the creation of new national parks, the erection of monu-
ments to commorative persons or events, payment of claims to persons
who have been injured by governmental activities or government agents,
permits to states and cities to construct bridges across navigable
streams. Of an approximate 13,000 bills introduced, about 800 or 900
managed to hurdle the many obstacles in the legislative path and become
law. Truly, Congress is a legislative graveyards. That fact however
should be reassuring to a Democracy wherein a Congress and 48 legislat-
ures are forever grinding out legislation.

QUIPS FROM THE RECORD. Mr. Blanton of Texas. "Mr. Speaker, if the gentle-
man from Pennsylvania (Mr. Rich) would follow Mr. Farley around awhile,
he would know exactly where he is going." Mr. Rich, "I may say to the
gentleman from Texas that if I followed him, I would go crazy.(Laughter)"
Mr. Blanton, "By not following him, the gentleman is possibly somewhat
that way already." .... Mr. May of Ky. "Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman
yield?" Mr. Mitchell of Tenn. "I will yield to the gentleman from Ky.,
who has the unhappy faculty so often of getting on the wrong side of
every proposition. If I could get my friend right on this bill, I would
love to have my arms in around him as he is needed, as I am." Mr. May,
"The trouble with the gentleman is that he has not
hugged the right person." Mr. Mitchell, "The gentleman might not have
been on the scene.

TRANSITORY GLORY. When the World War broke out, Tom Hewitt was 22. He
came from a good New York family. In him coursed the thrill of conflict,
the desire for adventure. The United States was still at peace with the
world so Tom Hewitt, joined the celebrated Franco-American flying squad-
ron known as the Lafayette Escadrille. The exploits of this organization
would fill volumes. Then the U.S. entered the conflict and Tom Hewitt
joined the American Army Air Service and was wounded in action. He came
back to America and took up residence in Washington. The war did things
to Tom Hewitt. It killed something. He lost his grip, became a drifter.
His body became prey to excesses and a day or two ago, Tom Hewitt, who
once basked in his own glory, died in a Washington rooming house. His
body lay unclaimed in the District Morgue and was destined for the Potter's Field. There, only a number on the grave would indicate that it contained the body of an unclaimed person. Fortunately, comrades of Tom Hewitt learned of it in the nick of time and now the former flyer will sleep with his buddies in Arlington cemetery, where poverty means nothing, and where money cannot buy a grave. On his grave will be a new flag and a poppy for Memorial Day.

CALL KING SOLomon. Lithuania is a small country, tucked up in a corner, just northeast of Germany. It has a population of 2,476,000. There are in this country today, according to the 1930 census, about 193,000 people who were born in Lithuania. Consequently, under the National Quota act, Lithuania is entitled to send only 100 people to the United States each year, assuming they are admissible under other provisions of law. Back in 1926, two sisters living in Lithuania, wanted to come to the United States. Unfortunately, the quota was already closed and they could secure no passport visa from the American consul. What to do? They journeyed to Berlin. There they encountered a "man" who asked where they wished to go. They said "America." He offered to get them the proper visas. It would cost about $200. They sensed no wrong in this, paid the money, were provided with visas, properly executed by the American consul. The two young ladies came to the U.S. Shortly after arrival, they met two young men. They were brothers. A courtship ensued. Love prevailed and the young men married the young ladies. They raised families. Life was pleasant. The one husband is an American citizen and sells insurance. The children are citizens because native-born. The other has a dress shop, is a citizen, employs about 10 persons. His children are also citizens. The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization in the course of its check up on naturalization petitions learns how and when the young ladies came over and found that they were illegally in this country and therefore deportable. They can be deported but what about the fathers and children who are citizens, and who cannot be deported. These and similar cases are now occupying the attention of the House Immigration Committee. The wisdom of a Solomon is needed to determine the equities in many of these cases.

A $60,000 ERROR. Fifteen or more years ago, the Federal Government threw the Bureau of Navigation and Steamboat Inspection in the Dept. of Commerce collected $60,823 from the Standard Oil Company in tonnage taxes and light moneys. Over a period of years, the Standard Oil Company protested the fees and taxes as excessive and discriminatory and finally filed suit in the Court of Claims for recovery of the amount paid. The case dragged on until two years ago when the Court decided that the taxes were legally assessed and collected. A year ago, this same claim was included in a so-called omnibus claims bill and was approved by the Secretary of Commerce. Three weeks after the Secretary's approval, the Attorney General also rendered an interpretation of the Court's action under which the claim was apparently not allowable. However, the claim passed the Senate and was detected by a Rep. Cochran of Mo. Chairman of the House Committee on Expenditures in Executive Departments. When he brought the matter to light, the Secretary of Commerce freely admitted his error. Uncle Sam thereby saves the $60,000.