

This Week in Washington
By Ralph E. Church
Representative, 10th Congressional District

Washington, D. C., May 2.—With the eleven Democrats voting "no" and four Republicans voting "yes," the administration's tax bill passed the House last Wednesday by a vote of 207-93. Only three rather minor amendments were made to the bill as reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, and they were sponsored by the committee itself.

All in all, judging from the debate on the bill and the subsequent vote, it amounted to a blind acceptance or a blind rejection. Few understood its complexities. It can hardly be denied that the committee itself had not fully digested it and that the House was not intelligently informed as to its purports. It simply amounted to a majority on the committee yielding to the administration's dictation and the majority in the House docilely adopting the committee's recommendations.

While the House was debating the bill on the floor, the Senate Finance committee was holding what Senator James Couzens, of Michigan, is reported to have called "dress rehearsals" in preparation for public hearings. Behind closed doors the Senate committee had the bill explained to them by treasury experts. It amounted to tutoring classes in the complicated tax formulas of the bill in order that the committee would have at least some understanding of its principles before public hearings were held.

On Thursday the Senate committee opened its public hearings with the appearance of Secretary of Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, Jr. As to what the ultimate developments will be no one can definitely say, but there seems a general sentiment in the House that the Senate committee will completely rewrite the bill. As far as the hearings by the House committee were concerned, only three persons testified in favor of the proposal.

With the tax bill out of the way, the House turned its attention to the Navy Department Appropriation Bill. The people of the middle west will be pleased to learn that once again we have secured the favorable recommendation of the Committee on Appropriations for the cooperation of Great Lakes Naval Training Station, which was re-opened by virtue of the appropriation secured last year. The bill as reported provides for the same amount as allowed last year for the station's operations. It passed the House yesterday with the

appropriation intact.

For the young men in the district it will no doubt be a source of disappointment that the committee did not make provision for an additional Midshipman at the Naval Academy for each congressional district as originally recommended in the budget. Many of the boys who were interested in competing for the appointment have been anxious about this matter, having learned that the federal budget called for an additional appointee. Inasmuch as appointments are made only as vacancies occur, the boys will have to wait until 1938 before they can be considered for an appointment from the district. At that time a Midshipman should graduate. However, there is always the possibility of a resignation or that the Navy Bill now under consideration will be amended before it becomes a law.

It is anticipated that the House will soon take up the appropriation for so-called work-relief. It is more or less a certainty that the question of politics in connection with relief and federal projects will receive considerable amount of attention. An effort will be made to return relief to local or state jurisdiction, with such federal co-operation as may be necessary.

The director of public works for the city of Pittsburgh, Leslie M. Johnston, a Democrat, raised the issue when he said to the House Committee on Ways and Means that he had on his desk \$100 million of necessary work to be done in his city, that he had sufficient organization personnel to handle the work and that all that should be necessary would be the allocation of funds for him to proceed. He said, "As it is done now, you have a W.P.A. set-up in Pittsburgh consisting of hundreds of men at high salaries. You have another W.P.A. set-up in Harrisburg of hundreds of men with high salaries. You have Mr. Hopkins' set-up in Washington. We say that is absolutely and totally unnecessary. . . . And I am telling you quite firmly that 50 per cent of that money is absolute sheer waste, and I can prove that statement." He explained that "the politicians of Pennsylvania" got the 50 per cent that "has been lost."

The public can be certain that this will be the suggestion vigorously advanced when Congress begins work on the WPA appropriation. It is hoped that the question can be considered on a non-partisan basis, but perhaps that is hoping for too much.

D. A. R. BETTER FILMS COMMITTEE REVIEW

"A Tale of Two Cities." Cast, Ronald Colman, Elizabeth Allan, Edna May Oliver, Henry B. Walthall, H. B. Warren. Thursday, May 7. Once again Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has transmitted to the screen a Dickens classic retaining with authenticity. The story and maintaining throughout the beauty and interest of the original. Finished, expert, realistic direction. Very fine photography, sustained supreme, all add to the interest. Excellent for the family but not for small children.

"Kinky." Cast, Jackie Cooper, Mary Astor, Henry O'Neil. An old type melodrama in which the hopes and happiness of a young boy are shattered by an unjust accusation against his mother. Family. Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9.

"The Music Goes Round." Cast, Harry Richman, Rochelle Hudson, Walter Connolly and the composers of the song hit from which the title of the film is taken. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, May 10-11-12. Fast moving, snappy entertainment is provided by this delightful musical comedy which introduces clever songs, Negro dancing and charming romance. Highly entertaining for the family.

"Every Saturday Night." Cast, Jed Prouty, Spring Byington, Jene Lang, Florence Roberts. Wednesday and Thursday, May 13 and 14. This film offers something diverting and unusual in film fare. A glimpse of life in an average American family. Cheerful, pleasant mother, generous father, an understanding "Granny" and five children, each engrossed in his own interests. The near tragedy of one evening unites them all in closer love and understanding. Family.

Deerfield Rotarians to Attend Conclave

Speakers high in the Rotary organization, both in the United States and abroad, and entertainment ranging from a symphony concert to a vaudeville show will be attractions for local Rotarians at Chicago Heights on May 13 and 14.

Carl E. Bates, president of the Deerfield Rotary club, is a member of the "On to Chicago Heights" committee, which is planning the program for the fortieth District Rotarian conference to be held May 13 and 14 at Chicago Heights. L. B. Sinclair of Highland Park is also a committee member.

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