

This Week in Washington

By Ralph E. Church
Representative, 10th Congressional District

Washington, D. C., June 18.—With the exception of a perfunctory session of about an hour on Monday, during the entire week the Congress has been in recess. In the meantime several bills have been pending before the conference committee in order to iron out the differences between the House and the Senate. The goal now is adjournment "sine die" before the Democratic Convention in Philadelphia on June 23rd. Its attainment is dependent upon what has been accomplished during this week's recess. The real controversy is over the administration's tax bill.

The Democratic membership of the House is faced with the question as to who should be the majority floor leader to fill the vacancy made by the selection of William B. Bankhead, of Alabama, as speaker. It is a position of not only power and prestige but it is the stepping stone to the speaker's chair.

Two of the avowed candidates for the position seem to be quietly campaigning for the office. In order to avoid any bitterness and party animosities, especially in an election year, it is a fair presumption that the Democratic party will not make the selection during this Congress.

The two aspirants are Congressman John J. O'Connor, of New York, and Congressman John E. Rankin, of Mississippi. Congressman O'Connor is chairman of the powerful Committee on Rules and has had 14 years of consecutive service in the house. Congressman Rankin is chairman of the Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation and has had 16 years of consecutive service in the house.

Congressman Rankin's friends and supporters point to the fact that he has had more service than O'Connor and that his seniority should be recognized. On the other hand, the friends and supporters of Congressman O'Connor point to the fact that he has been chairman of the most powerful committee in the house and as such is the logical man to be made majority floor leader.

The fight for the office tends to have a sectional color. There is hardly any question but that the south has had control of the Congress. Of the 47 standing committees of the house the chairmanships of 22 of them are held by members who come from distinctly southern states. Virtually all of the larger and more important committees have someone south of the Mason and Dixon line as chairman, and no state exercises as much power and influence through its representation in the chairmanship of committees as the state of Texas.

The Democratic members from the northern states contend that it would be unfair to select another southerner for the important office of floor leader, in view of the chairmanships now held and the fact that the speaker is from Alabama. This is one of the chief objections raised to Congressman Rankin's candidacy. He comes from Mississippi.

In order to offset this objection and in opposition to Congressman O'Connor, the southern representatives contend that New York has always been able to make itself felt and that O'Connor is the representative of Tammany. They contend that no representative of Tammany should be made Majority floor leader with prospects of becoming the speaker.

There are, of course, a number of other aspirants for the position and there are also questions of personality, knowledge of parliamentary procedure and leadership ability. The chief point of controversy, however, may be said to be one of geography. It is a fair presumption that if a vote were taken today by the Democratic members the division would be largely along sectional lines, with the north supporting O'Connor and the south supporting Rankin.

As far as the argument of geography has any weight in the selection, it would seem that Congressman O'Connor or possibly some other Democratic member from a northern state with many years of service should be given the position. The traditionally solid Democratic south and the habit of those states to re-elect their members, thus giving them seniority in the Congress, has made it such that whenever the Democratic party comes into power the southern states automatically have control of the key positions in the Congress.

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SOLDIERS BONUS BRINGS \$250,000 TO HIGHLAND PARK

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able number had already made application.

A large number of the veterans seem to take the bonus as a heaven sent means of getting out of debt, and local merchants will undoubtedly reap a gratifying harvest from this source. One veteran interviewed yesterday, had an idea which seems good enough to pass on, even though it may seem that he was evidently preparing for the worst, even though he might be doing for the best.

He said that he intended to cash his bonds immediately and put the money into the government postal savings bonds, because he and his wife could own them in joint tenancy, while the bonus bonds remain

the sole property of the veteran himself. Holding the postal bonds in joint tenancy, he pointed out, would make it possible for his wife to have immediate access to the money in the event of his death, while if he retained the adjusted compensation bonds, considerable delay would undoubtedly be necessary before she could cash them.

CONDUCTORS NAMED FOR RAVINIA PARK SYMPHONIC SEASON

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the St. Louis Symphony orchestra, and as guest conductor in various parts of the country.

Richard Hageman, whose conductorial career is long and varied and well known in its operatic aspects at the Ravinia and Chicago audiences, will wield the baton for the four

concerts of the second week of the season. Though best known hereabouts as a conductor of opera, his symphonic knowledge and experience is large. His success both as composer and conductor was outstanding last winter when he conducted the ballet music from his opera, "Caponaschi," with the Chicago Symphony orchestra at Orchestra Hall, Chicago. He was popular at Ravinia Park where for a number of years he conducted mainly the French repertoire.

The third week will introduce William van Hoogstraten to the Chicago public. After gaining early recognition as a conductor in Vienna and Salzburg, he became one of the principal conductors of the New York Philharmonic orchestra. He subsequently began to conduct the summer concerts at the Lewisohn stadium, where his popularity has remained undiminished. Since 1925 he has been the conductor of the Portland Symphony orchestra.

Following the originally announced policy of the Festival committee to employ conductors of this community, four names are announced for the fourth week at Ravinia Park. They are Henry Weber of Lake Bluff, best known as the musical head of WGN, and one of the conductorial staff of the Chicago Civic Opera company; Carl Bricken, who has won his spurs by his work at the University of Chicago; Isaac Van Grove, who is too well known to Chicagoans to need introduction, and Jerry Bojanowski, whose fame is best known to the Polish people of Chicago and in his native Poland.

The final week will introduce Werner Janssen, the youngest and by many believed to be the greatest, of the American conductors. His career includes a bewildering array of conductorial assignments, from Tin Pan Alley to the Roxy theater in New York, through a veritably triumphant European tour of conducting from Rome to Rio, and

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