

**THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON**

By **RALPH E. CHURCH**  
Representative 10th Congressional (North Shore) District

Illinois Representative in Congress Washington, D.C., Nov. 27—There seems to be only one way to summarize the present legislative situation in Congress. That is by saying, "it is in a state of confusion." Practically the only thing accomplished during these first two weeks of the Special Session is the "letting off of steam" by the individual Members.

To be sure, the opportunity for individual Members of Congress to speak their individual minds is not altogether undesirable. In fact, in the last few years there have been too few opportunities for exhaustive congressional debate. At the same time, however, one cannot fail to recognize that thus far the Congress seems to be moving in no definite direction. It appears to be torn between a desire to follow its own wishes and a desire to satisfy the White House.

The Administration's so-called Wage-Hour Bill is still stymied in the House Committee on Rules. The measure was reported favorably by the Committee on Labor at the last session. But the Rules committee, which controls the parliamentary situation and has the power to grant or withhold the legislative right-of-way for reported bills, has persistently refused to report a rule for immediate consideration of the Wage-Hour Bill.

On every committee the party in power always maintains a majority. This is particularly true of the Rules committee, which is essentially a political body. It is designed primarily to enable the Majority Party to keep control over its legislative program, so that Administration measures receive preference and other bills may be kept from the floor.

It is, indeed, a rare occasion when the Committee on Rules refuses the Administration's demands. Especially rare is the occasion when the Administration leadership finds it necessary to resort to the extraordinary method of having a petition in order to discharge its own "program committee" from further jurisdiction over one of its "program measures."

Such is the stalemate situation in the House. Not a single major bill has been before it for two weeks. Not having anticipated a Special Session being called, the Committee on Agriculture has not had its Farm Bill ready to send to the floor. We have thus witnessed an extraordinary Session of Congress, called ostensibly to deal with an emergency situation, doing little more than "mark time."

In order to cut off a bitter filibuster against an anti-lynching bill pending in the Senate, the Senate Agriculture committee hastily put a farm bill into shape and sent it to the floor. A motion was made for its immediate consideration even before the committee had written its explanatory report. In his opening remarks on the subject the chairman of the Senate committee frankly stated that the bill was written under pressure and that he was not entirely satisfied with all its features.

The House Committee on Agricul-

ture has also been working under pressure. It has made haste to draft a bill so that the House leadership may be relieved of the embarrassment of having no definite measure to call up for consideration. With each day the membership has been becoming more impatient and the demand for immediate tax-relief legislation for business has increased. Many more days of marking time may make it impossible for Administration to keep its majority in line.

But, according to the statement of the chairman of the House Agriculture committee last Thursday, his committee will report a farm bill so that it may be taken up this coming Monday. Perhaps in his opening remarks on the bill he will also frankly say that his committee has been under pressure for time in considering the bill and that he does not feel entirely satisfied with the results.

In any event, there are many of us who believe that on too many occasions the farmers have been the victims of hastily written and inadequately considered legislation. They have simply been the victims of political opportunism and legislative expediency. From the point of view of the farmers, and the country generally, it would be preferred to have the Committee on Agriculture thoroughly study every angle of the farm problem and carefully write every line of its bill so that something by way of permanent rather than temporary relief may be realized.

Moreover, there are many of us who believe that during these past two weeks and while the Agriculture committee was exhaustively working out a solution to the farm problem, the House could proceed with the much less difficult task of repealing or modifying the tax structure to relieve business. There is no legitimate reason for these two weeks of confusion and "time marking." There is no legitimate reason why the Senate and House Agriculture committees could not be given full time desired to work out a permanent solution for our farmers.

**Federal Reserve Bank Explained In New Booklet**

Publication of a new booklet titled simply "Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago" marks what is thought to be the first time that a governmental or quasi-governmental financial agency has set out to interpret its services to the layman in the language used by laymen. The booklet has been in process of preparation for several months and nothing comparable to it has heretofore been published.

In announcing its publication today, George J. Schaller, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, declared that it was the intention of the institution's officials to present in as brief a form as possible a description of the Federal Reserve Bank of this district, what it does, how it functions, and its position in the economic scheme of the territory it serves.

The booklet is thirty-two pages in length, illustrated, and, according to present plans, will immediately go into a "first edition" of 150,000 copies. Limited supplies will be sent to each of the 759 members

banks comprising the Seventh Federal Reserve district. Orders from these individual member banks will then be taken for specified amounts, and copies distributed to their customers and others who request them.

The opening passages of the book touch upon the extent and purpose of the Federal Reserve System and follow with a detailed description of the operations of the Chicago institution serving the Seventh district. Noteworthy are facts of general interest which heretofore have been confusing to many. For example, it is shown that no "single bank or group of banks in the district can dominate the policies of the Federal Reserve Bank. The smaller banks have equal representation with the larger and medium-sized banks on the Board of Directors." Likewise, a simple and clear discussion of what becomes of the Federal Reserve Bank profits is given. Similarly, such widely-used terms as "open-market operations," "rediscounts," and "discount rate" are explained in terms understandable to those unfamiliar with banking terminology. Each phase of operations, functions, and duty of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago is explained or touched upon,

so that those whose knowledge of the institution has heretofore probably been clouded in abstract terms will, after reading the book, be informed on the broad general character of the bank.

Publication of the work means that a long-standing wish on the part of President Schaller has culminated in a reality. Since he assumed his present position as head of the Chicago institution in 1934, he has believed that some such explanatory work would greatly facilitate a more accurate and general appreciation of the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank among those in this district.

"The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago is one of the most important cogs in the economic machinery of the upper middle west and second largest Federal Reserve Bank in the United States," said Mr. Schaller. "But because it does not deal directly with the mass public in the same manner as commercial banks do, its functions and purposes have often been misunderstood. This book will, we hope, go a long way to correct that situation. The bank's activities every working day affect directly and indirectly the lives of most people in the Seventh district, yet not many have heretofore un-

derstood why this is so. The book will appeal very strongly to business men, manufacturers, and farmers. Then, too, students will find in it a very simple readable text on this phase of our national banking structure."

According to President Schaller, the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank will be glad to supply copies to those who request them.

**Mistaken Identity**

Scene: The backwoods of Tennessee. Two backwoodsmen knock on door of cabin.

First Illiterate: "Howdy, Joe; me and Ed just found the body of a dead man over in the holler, and we thought maybe it was you."

Second Tennessean: "What'd he look like?"

First: "He was about your build, and—"

Second: "Did he have on a flannel shirt?"

First: "Yup."

Second: "With red and white checks?"

First: "No, it was plain grey."

Second (closing the door): "Nope, it wasn't me."—Log.

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