

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

By RALPH E. CHURCH

Representative 10th Congressional (North Shore) District

Washington, D.C., April 18 — It is much too early to appraise the national reaction to the President's "pump-priming" program submitted to Congress this week and outlined to the people in his "fireside chat" last Thursday. At this writing it appears that Congress will adopt the program but not without serious doubts as to its wisdom. Even those who have indicated their willingness to support the proposal are without enthusiasm.

There is no question that we are face to face with the necessity of taking positive, constructive steps to stem the tide of the business recession. Nor is there any question that we have the increased responsibility of providing employment for thousands of our people who are without jobs. But we may well ask, is another "spending spree the remedy? Will it bring sustained economic recovery or will it prove to be only another stimulant which, like the others, ultimately wears off and leaves us deeper in the shadows of debts?

Political economists have long recognized that a properly timed, well planned government public works program can serve to take up the slack when a business decline sets in. The loosening of credit and the releasing of government funds have been accepted as proper functions of government in leveling off a drop in business activity. But such a program is to be distinguished from a reckless pouring out of billions of dollars in more or less a free-for-all fashion. Reckless spending only leads to the situation which President Roosevelt himself described to Congress in 1933:

"For three long years the Federal Government has been on the road toward bankruptcy . . . with the utmost seriousness I point out to the Congress the profound effect of this fact upon our national economy. It has contributed to the recent collapse of our banking structure. It has accentuated the stagnation of the economic life of our people. It has added to the ranks of the unemployed. . . Too often in recent history liberal governments have been wrecked on the rocks of loose fiscal policy. We must avoid this danger."

When the President uttered those words of warning our Federal debt was \$16 billion less than it is today. If there was a danger of bankruptcy in 1933 from "loose fiscal policy," surely the danger looms closer today. And, as President Roosevelt suggested five years ago, "We must avoid this danger."

Whatever may be one's personal opinion with regard to the program outlined in the President's radio speech, there is one phase of that speech which should be unanimously endorsed. In these words, it seems to me, the President expressed the fundamental need in the United States if we are ever to realize economic recovery:

"There is placed on all of us the duty of self-restraint. . . That is the discipline of a democracy. Every patriotic citizen must say to himself or herself that immoderate statement, appeals to prejudice, the creation of unkindness, are offenses not against an individual or individuals, but offenses against the whole population of the United States."

Today there is a breach between the President and the Congress. There is a breach between the government and business. No doubt the Administration itself created

these breaches by its non-compromising, dictatorial and vindictive attitude. No doubt the Administration is in large part responsible for the bitterness and hatred and sharp divisions among our people. No doubt no one has exercised less self-restraint than the government officials themselves. But the problems which confront us are bigger than our personal or partisan animosities, and we should be prepared to answer the President's plea for unity.

I cannot refrain from expressing the hope that those words of the President mark the beginning of a new era, where there is a friendly spirit of cooperation between the Executive and Congress, between the government and business, in the common objective of advancing the general welfare of all the people. That is our basic need.

LIBRARY

The Theatre in Europe

The current issue of the Theatre Arts Monthly, which may be found on the shelves of the reading room at the Highland Park Public Library, is devoted to a discussion of the theatre in various foreign countries. The following information is taken from this magazine.

Norway has two national theatres, one in the capital, Oslo, and the other in Bergen. Both these theatres started as private enterprises at the end of the last century and served a voluntary probationary period before being subsidized by national funds. Not until 1927 did either of the projects receive financial aid. A great part of the credit for improving the art of the theatre goes to two of Norway's famous playwrights, Henrik Ibsen and Bjornstjerne Bjornson, who were both connected with the theatre at Bergen. Their plays proved that drama was far wider in its appeal than had been supposed formerly and that it should have the support of the state. The funds for the state subsidy come from two sources: a percentage of the profits on the municipal monopoly of the movies and a percentage of the State Lottery surplus. In order that the whole country may benefit from the art for which they are paying through taxation the National Theatres are pledged to send road companies to outlying districts as well as to broadcast plays over state's broadcasting station.

Greece has two professional theatres devoted to producing the ancient Greek classics. One, the Royal Theatre, is subsidized by the government and has its own school of acting; the other, the Laice Scene (People's Theatre) is an experimental theatre with workers recruited from the peasant classes. The latter group is only about 3 years old, inaugurated and directed by a young playwright, Carolus Koun whose idea is eventually to produce the classics of all nations in modern Greek.

The Moscow Children's Theatre has been in operation for about two decades and has grown to a position of national importance in the art world. It has performed some fifty plays before four and a half million children and established a hundred tributary branches. The roster of actors, stage designers, and directors includes a number of

Russia's most famous names and every effort is bent toward giving the young audience great art.

The only theatre subsidy in the United States is the Federal Arts projects, a part of the W.P.A. program. This is not in any sense national in scope though its efforts, localized in the east, have been well received. The following is a list of recent books on the theatre which may be obtained at the Highland Park Public Library:

- Art of Playgoing, by Brown.
Art of Theatre-Going, by Drinkwater.
Drama, by Dukas.
Since Ibsen, by Nathan.
The Stage Is Set, by Simonson.
Discovering Drama, by Drew.
Footlights Across America, by MacGowan.
American Theatre As Seen By Its Critics, by Moses.
Testament of a Critic, by Nathan.

Name Committees On National Air Mail Week Program

May 15th to May 21st has been designated as National Air Mail Week by Postmaster General, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the first air mail flight in the United States and the world.

Plans are being worked out for celebration of this event in Highland Park and the following committees have been tentatively announced:

- Honorary Committee—Wm. Dooley, Mayor, chairman; Gen. R. E. Wood, Tom R. Wyles, Samuel M. Hastings, B. F. Lewis, E. B. Metzger.
Local Executive Committee—Daniel L. Cobb, chairman; Allen Jones, vice-chairman; Edw. S. Marks, treasurer.
Publicity—John Udell, chairman; Frank Peers, newspapers; H. B. Alston, speakers; Wm. Pearl, theatres; Harry G. Pertz, cacher; Alvina Culver, clipping service.
Radio—Eugene Singer, chairman; Phil Libby, programs.
Education—R. L. Sandwick, chairman; Minnie Buzard, schools; Wm. F. Einbecker, Parent-Teachers; Chas. G. Mason, contests; Lucile Wood, contests-posters; Dr. J. P. O'Connell, stamp collectors; Walter Rice, cover collectors.
Civic-Fraternal—Percy Prior, chairman; Dr. A. J. Wurth, civic clubs; Walter Meierhoff, fraternal organizations; American Legion, Miller Schreiner; Boy and Girl Scouts, C. G. Speer; Women's clubs, Mrs. Herbert R. Smith.
Business-Professional—Lewis B. Sinclair, chairman; Harold M. Flornheim, manufacturers and wholesalers; retailers, Sam Fell; service organizations, Geo. Scheuchensflug; chairman of committee, E. A. Belmont; banks, J. M. Appel.
Air Mail Pick-up, Schedules and Services—Fred R. Moon, chairman; postoffice co-operation, Raymond E. Klinger; air-lines co-operation, Robt. G. Anspach; local pilots, Joseph P. Ugolini.

Jewish Women's Organizations End Current Year Apr. 25

The closing program of the current year for the Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations will take place Monday, April 25th at 1 p.m. preceded by a luncheon for the executive board. Mrs. Harry L. Canmann, the retiring president, will read her annual report, surveying the diverse activities, civic, philanthropic and religious, with which the Conference concerns itself. The Conference is a delegate body, representing 100 organizations, serv-

ing as a clearing body, relaying such information as pertains to the work of specific organizations, and contacting such non-Jewish groups as are interested in allied fields.

The chairmen of the several committees will also give annual reports covering the various phases of their departments. At the last regular meeting the nominating committee presented its slate for the ensuing year. Formal elections will take place at the next meeting. Mrs. Charles Segal will then take over the duties of president for the next two years. Under her guidance it is a foregone conclusion that the effectiveness of the conference will continue as it has for the past three decades.

Broke His Neck — and Didn't Know It! The Human Mole Who Dug 30 Years! Several of the interesting features in THE AMERICAN WEEKLY, the Magazine Distributed with NEXT SUNDAY'S CHICAGO HERALD AND EXAMINER.

Dr. Ellery H. Harvey To Discuss "Soils" At Garden Class Meet

The April meeting of the Garden class of the Highland Park Woman's club will be an especially interesting one. It is to be held Tuesday, April 26th, at 2 o'clock, at the home of the chairman, Mrs. Ellery H. Harvey, with Mrs. A. M. Allison and Mrs. Percy Prior as co-hostesses.

The subject of the talk, to be given by Dr. Ellery H. Harvey, will be "Soils and Their Proper Nour-

ishment." This will be an illustrated talk on the chemistry and physics of soils and the significance of various ingredients in properly promoting plant growth. Flower culture will be emphasized. There will also be a demonstration showing how to analyze soil deficiencies. As Dr. Harvey has given much time and study to this important element in the development of satisfactory gardens, the information he will present will be most valuable to those who attend. Guests are welcome upon payment of the usual small guest fee.

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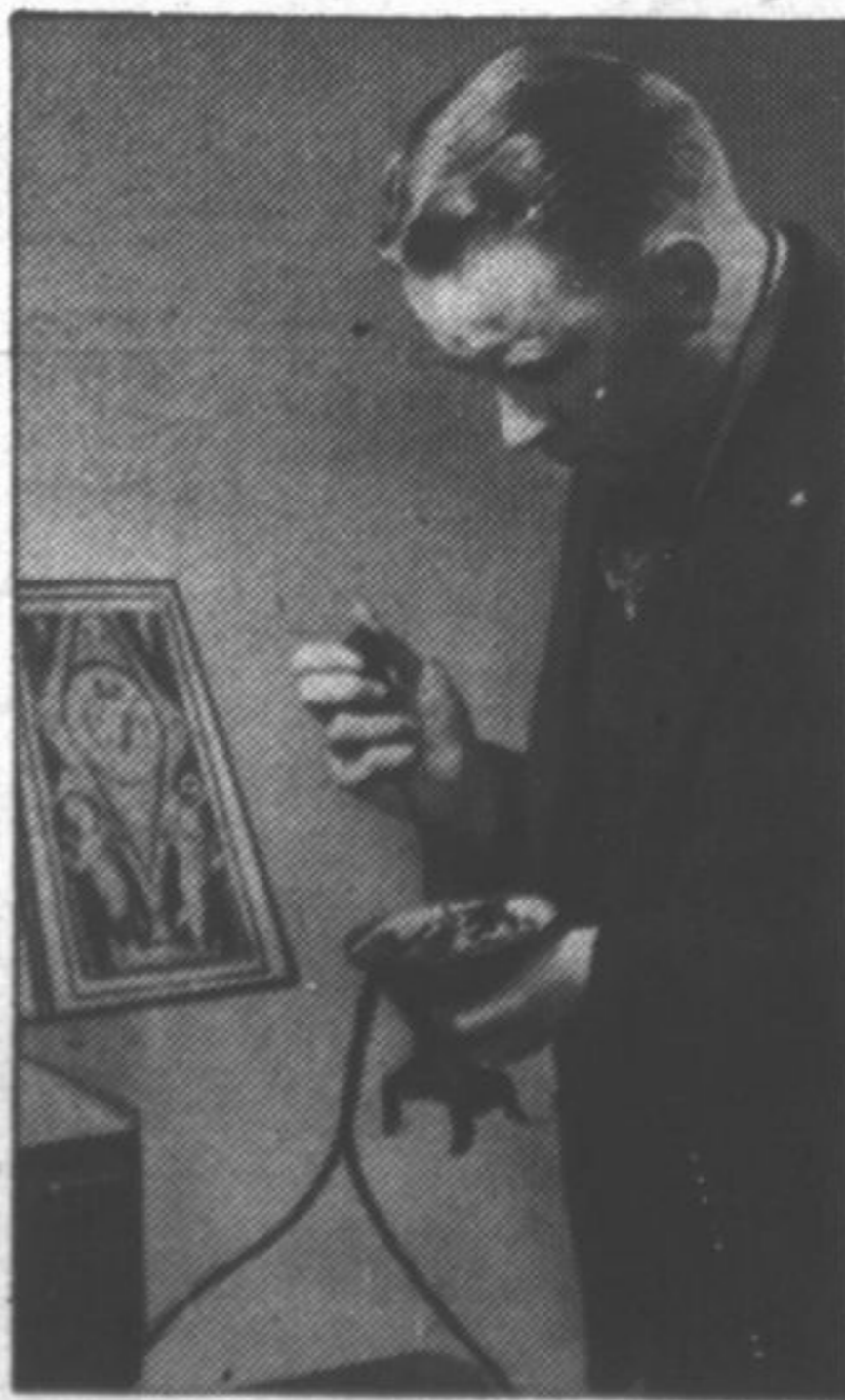
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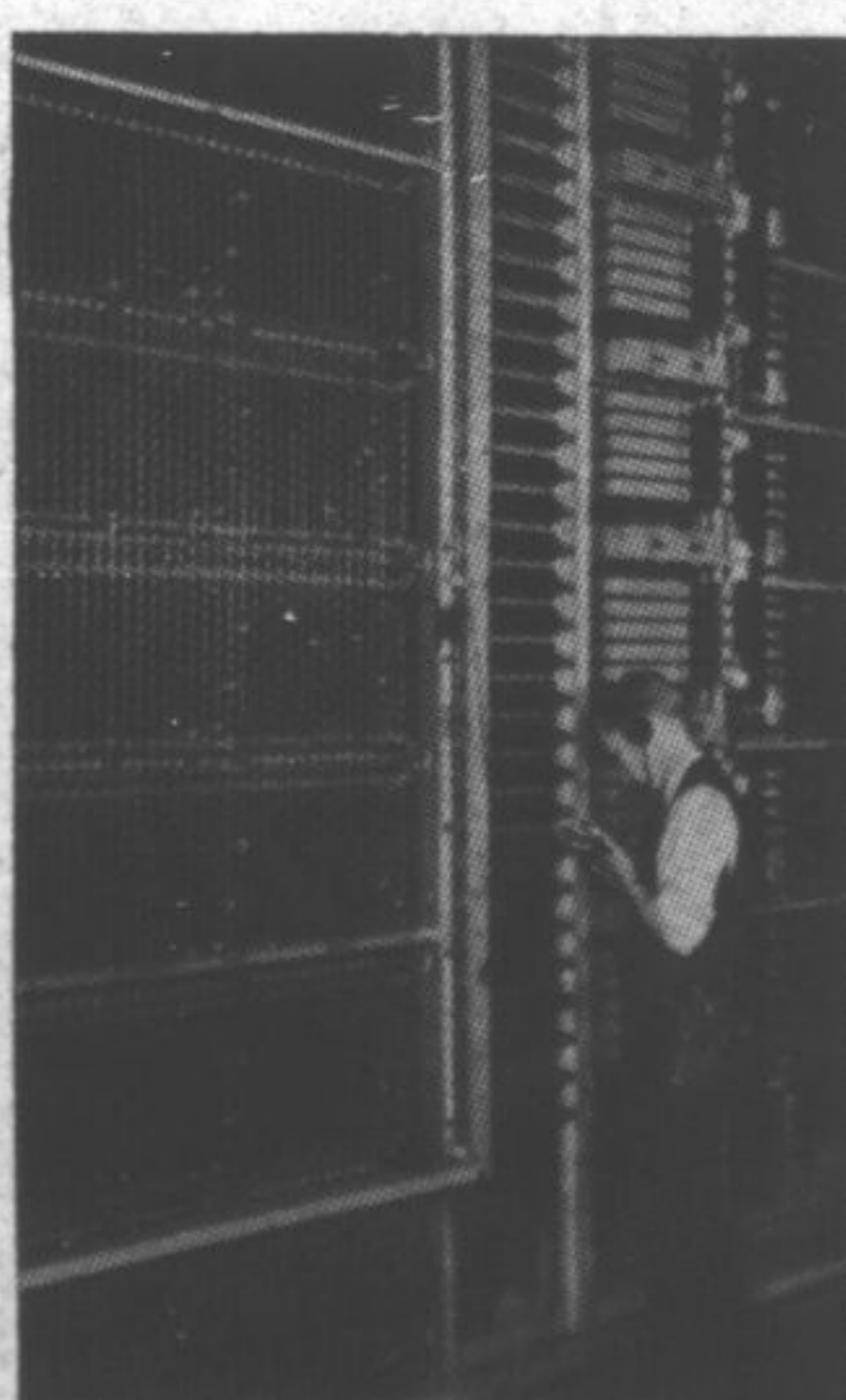
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