

# H. O. L. C. MENAGED BY POLITICS AGAIN

Efficiency Threatened by Pending Amendment in Congress.

BY DAVID LAWRENCE.

Politics—the cancer that is eating into the New Deal and bringing it to the level of the Old Deal—has reared its selfishness once more in an attempt to break down the efficiency of the Home Owners' Loan Corp. Nothing could be more important than integrity and honesty in the management of a governmental agency which disburses billions of dollars in home mortgages and collects many millions of dollars a month in interest.

If politics gets the upper hand the officials in charge will find themselves pressed by local political bosses to grant favors to their friends, either in giving them preferential treatment in the handling of their applications for mortgage loans or in making easier terms in collecting interest.

Amendment Pending.

But, unless public opinion says no, there will be adopted by the Senate and House very soon an amendment which on its face looks innocent, but which is a bold-faced attempt to put the Home Owners' Loan Corp. into the hands of the politicians, notwithstanding the courageous fight made by Senator John H. Rankin to conduct the affairs of his institution on a business-like basis.

The amendment reads as follows: "No person shall be appointed or retained as an officer, employee, agent, or attorney, in any regional or State office of the corporation who was, at the date of the establishment of such office, not a resident of the region or State served by such office. The amendatory provision shall go into effect within 90 days after the date of the enactment thereof."

On its face this appears as a simple effort to give the personnel in local areas a chance at the jobs in the regional and branch offices. But the fact is that 100 per cent of the employees of the State offices of the H. O. L. C. and about 90 per cent of the employees of the regional offices, including all executives and administrative officers, are actually from the regions or areas where they now are employed.

**Aimed at Managers.**

What, then, is the aim of the amendment? The answer is that out of 11 regional managers, all but 2 are from areas other than those in which they are serving. This was deliberately done by the management in order to eliminate all possibility of local influence or pressure and nearly all of these regional managers were appointed only after they had been trained in the Washington headquarters of the H. O. L. C. For the H. O. L. C. to decentralize and make decisions in the field had to depend on the advice and recommendations of the regional managers. There is too much at stake to follow any other plan.

In order that the amendment really is aimed at the nine regional managers who constitute the heart of the H. O. L. C. Once they are in control of the politicians, the rest of the personnel will become puppets. The amendment is aimed at the nine regional managers who constitute the heart of the H. O. L. C. Once they are in control of the politicians, the rest of the personnel will become puppets. The amendment is aimed at the nine regional managers who constitute the heart of the H. O. L. C. Once they are in control of the politicians, the rest of the personnel will become puppets.

It has been suggested that the H. O. L. C. rather than lose the services of its nine trained regional managers, would shift them around so as to conform to the new requirement. This would mean a complete rearrangement and possible demoralization of the work of the offices at a time when every effort is being made to accelerate action on applications and to handle the interest-collecting problem efficiently.

**H. O. L. C. Fortunate in Two.**

In two regions where the present managers come from the same areas in which they operate, the H. O. L. C. has been fortunate in getting men of independent means and great ability, who are giving their time to the public service.

In sitting of 10 per cent of the employees of the regional offices who were not originally residents of the regions where they now are employed would mean considerable confusion and probably the discharge of many technically trained employees.

Senator Norris of Nebraska, independent Republican, warned his fellow Senators when the Home Owners' Loan Corporation law was first before Congress that it must not be made the foot ball of the patronage hunters, but his words were of little avail. Mr. Norris has high ideals of government; he believes in Government control of many activities, but he has been consistent in arguing for a non-political public service.

The reason, however, why the governmental control idea usually fails to the ground is that the politically minded in Congress regard the new officials and bureaus as their own particular property and as the opportunity for the award of special privilege.

Congress thus has another test of the virtue of the New Deal, and so has President Roosevelt in the amendment pending now, which would destroy the morale and the efficiency of one of the few governmental agencies that seems to have been run on a businesslike basis, free from party politics. (Copyright, 1935.)

## Congress in Brief

By the Associated Press.

**SENATE.**  
In recess.  
Interstate Commerce Subcommittee resumes consideration of Guffey coal bill.

**HOUSE.**  
Munitions Committee hears William B. Shearer in denial he threatened to scandalize shipbuilding industry.

**SENATE.**  
Ordered investigation of N. R. A. by Finance Committee.

**HOUSE.**  
Elections Committee named subcommittee to study challenge of Cutting election.

**SENATE.**  
Territories Committee voted to investigate the administration of the Virgin Islands.

**HOUSE.**  
Ways and Means Committee discussed constitutionality of social security bill.

**SENATE.**  
Judiciary Committee approved measures to permit States to enter into compact to obtain uniform labor laws.

**HOUSE.**  
Post Office Subcommittee approved bill to increase rates for airmail carriers.

# What's What Behind News In Capital

Industries and Labor Advance—Nervous Talk Resumed.

BY PAUL MALLON.

The best balanced business picture since the depression started is presented by the chart this month of official Government figures.

Industry has surged forward steadily since last September, during the last 60 days it has maintained the level of about 90 per cent of normal operations. This has brought factory employment up to 81 per cent of normal and wages to 67 per cent, leaving wages, however, still somewhat out of line.

Retail business has remained about the same during this five-month industrial surge, operating at about 75 per cent of normal. The railroads are still lagging around 65 per cent of normal, but are showing improvement. The general price level has been mounting for five months, but only because foods affected by the drought are soaking temporarily. Other prices have not shown much change.

All this you may see by a glance at the following chart. It contains figures compiled by various Government and private agencies, brought up to date by expert private estimates for February.



Each figure (except prices) is based on the 1923-25 averages as 100. All figures except pay rolls are adjusted for seasonal variations so that they accurately reflect where we stand without regard to seasonal trends.

**Industries Easing Up.**

Behind this bright picture is the fact that certain industrial lines have been easing up slightly during the last two weeks of February. This is noticeable particularly in steel, but not in industry generally.

At the same time there has been a renewal of private talk among business men about uncertainty. This time it is based on Congress. The indefiniteness of N. R. A. reorganization, the latest bank bill, the rail bills, the holding company legislation and the possibility of further tax proposals are more or less responsible. This feeling of uncertainty may not be entirely justified, but it exists.

Whether it will have any important effect on March and April business involves a guess on which competent observers are divided.

**Auto Leveling Off.**

The reason steel dropped was because automobile production is leveling off. Therein you have the best example of why the C. I. is difficult to gauge the immediate prospects of industry.

Steel production reached a maximum of 55 per cent three weeks ago, but it will soon be back around 45 per cent. Automobile production increased by fewer than 500 cars for the week ended February 23. Yet those inside the automobile trade will tell you that production for the first quarter of the year will be around 1,000,000 cars, or 293,000 for January, probably 350,000 for February, and need only 350,000 for March to approximate 1,000,000 for the quarter.

After that, motor car output will depend entirely on sales. No one can hazard even a good guess as to what these will be.

**The best indication that industry generally is holding up well lies in electric power consumption data. It has varied less than half a point during the last four weeks. Another hint of underlying strength is the car loading figure, which has been showing slightly more than seasonal improvement lately.**

**Building Very Weak.**

The one almost hopeless factor is building. After the first brief flush of P. W. A. activity a year ago, building has fallen to show anything but slight occasional flurries, which never developed into a trend. The latest favorable flurry is in residential building. January contracts were up to \$22,400,000, a 50 per cent improvement over December. The amount, of course, is insignificant.

P. W. A. contracts awarded by Secretary Ickes in January amounted to \$36,000,000, which was about one-third of the volume in that month last year. There will be hope for building after the pending work-relief bill passes, but not before.

**Prices Near 1926.**

The prices of only three commodities are relatively higher than farm and food prices now. That is, only the prices of building materials, hides, leather and furs are nearer 1926 level. And food prices are still going up.

The food price level for the January 12 week was 79.7 and by the February 12 week it was up to 83.1 in the official figures. But for the same week, all other prices actually decreased slightly, from 71 to 70.2.

All of which indicates that nature has her own commodity dollar.

The table referred to in Mr. Mallon's column follows:

(1926 equals 100.)									
Year	Industrial Production	Payroll	Freight	Dept. store	Bldg. contracts	Wholesale	Index	Index	Index
1929 average	96	91.5	88.7	92	102	92	95.5	95.5	95.5
1930 average	81	77.4	67.5	75	92	63	73.0	73.0	73.0
1931 average	64	64.2	45.3	56	69	28	64.3	64.3	64.3
1932—									
January	65	61.4	39.5	56	60	22	61.0	61.0	61.0
February	63	61.7	40.2	57	60	19	59.8	59.8	59.8
March	60	58.9	37.1	50	57	14	60.2	60.2	60.2
1934—									
January	78	75.1	54.0	64	68	49	72.2	72.2	72.2
February	81	78.4	60.6	64	71	49	73.6	73.6	73.6
March	85	81.0	64.8	66	77	53	73.7	73.7	73.7
April	73	73.9	57.9	57	74	21	71.5	71.5	71.5
May	73	76.7	61.0	57	74	21	71.5	71.5	71.5
June	73	76.7	59.5	59	72	31	76.5	76.5	76.5
July	75	79.0	63.2	64	76	31	76.5	76.5	76.5
1935—									
January	90	80.4	64.1	64	72	30	78.8	78.8	78.8
February (est.)	90	81.0	67.0	65	74	30	79.4	79.4	79.4

**Retired Manufacturer Dies.**

WINSTON, Conn., March 1 (AP)—John Bateman Adams, 67, a retired manufacturer and native of Richmond, Ind., died Wednesday. He had lived here for the past 37 years and was president of the Franklin Moore Co., bolt manufacturers, until the company liquidated.

**6,000 Rabbits Caught.**

Six thousand rabbits were caught in a recent drive in the Cummins district of Australia.

**Coffee Crop Is Huge.**

Nicaragua expects its present coffee crop to weigh over 5,000,000 pounds.

# Kress Heiress Is Married

Copyright, A. P. Wirephoto.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wesley Frame after their marriage yesterday at the Park Lane Hotel, New York. The bride is the former Miss Rosalind Kress, daughter of the Kress Chain Stores' owner. She is 24 and Frame is 28. They are motoring to Miami.

# MELLON'S REALTY HOLDINGS PROBED

\$20,000,000 Set as Book Value of Joint Account With Brother.

By the Associated Press.

PITTSBURGH, March 1.—More details of Andrew W. Mellon's wealth were brought into the records of his \$3,089,000 income tax hearing today.

Howard M. Johnson, for two decades confidential secretary to the financier, said the book value of a "joint account" kept by Andrew Mellon and his brother, R. B. Mellon, was \$20,000,000 in 1931—the year the Government claims the banker underpaid his income tax.

**Witness Describes Holdings.**

The witness described for the Tax Appeal Board the properties owned by this account, which were listed at \$8,053,325.66, showing it controlled the \$1,200,000 Pittsburgh Hotel, along with numerous other plots of land.

The book value of Andrew Mellon's personal holdings after he had transferred to his children's holding companies between \$68,000,000 and \$100,000,000 had been placed by Johnson previously at \$97,000,000. This included his interest in the joint account.

Today's testimony was given under cross-examination by F. R. Shearer, attorney for the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

**Witness and Lawyer Clash.**

Shearer and Frank J. Hogan, Mellon attorney, clashed once over Shearer's reference to the joint account as an "organization."

It is the Government's contention that this joint account actually is a partnership and that certain securities Mellon obtained from it were subject to more income tax than he reported. Among the assets of the joint account was a coal-hauling interest in the "J. M. Guffey Coal" Johnson said this concern held extensive acreage in North-Central West Virginia and had been held for many years.

# CANADIAN RADIO BOARD LAYS EXPANSION PLAN

Construction Program Is Projected to Give Complete Coast-to-Coast Coverage.

OTTAWA, Ontario, March 1.—A construction program designed to give the National Radio System complete coverage from coast to coast is contemplated by the Canadian Radio Commission.

The program, if ratified, would entail creation of new stations or increasing the power of existing stations in Nova Scotia, Montreal and Toronto districts to cover Northern Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Reference on the plans has been delayed, it was said, owing to a lack of funds. The program could be carried out, it is claimed, for some time under \$1,000,000. With it would be associated a plan to extend hours of national broadcasting.

**Protection for Children.**

SACRAMENTO, Calif., March 1 (AP)—Children born out of wedlock would be able to conceal that fact in the event their parents became legally married later, under a bill before the State Legislature. The bill provides for amendment of the birth certificate to delete all record of illegitimacy when the parents wed.

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**Wholesale Prices Rise**

Increase Raises Index to 79.6 Per Cent of 1926 Average.

A continued rise in wholesale commodity prices last week was noted yesterday by the Labor Department. Prices during the week were 79.6 per cent of their 1926 average, compared with 79.4 the previous week, 73.4 the corresponding week last year and 59.7 the corresponding week in 1933.

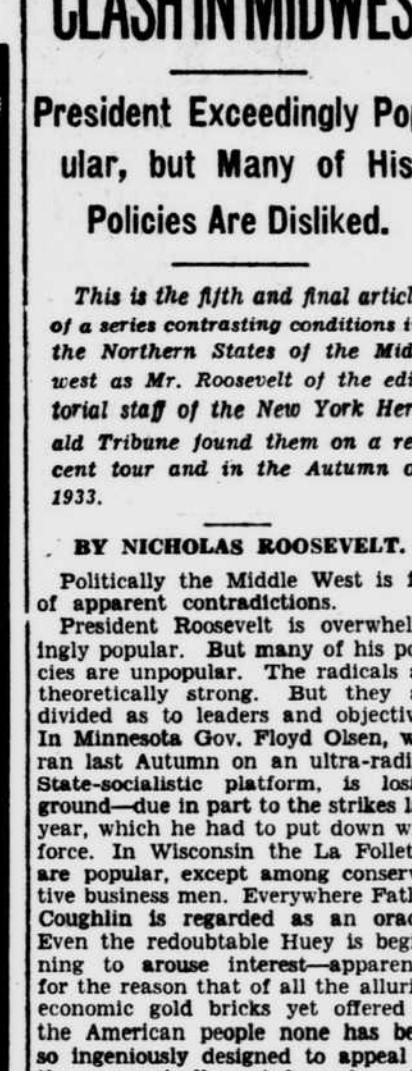
The food index number was 83.2, compared with 83.1 the previous week and 67 the corresponding week last year.

**Hoarding of Goods Ended.**

Hoarding of consumer goods in Germany has been almost completely stopped.

# POTENTIAL TRENDS CLASH IN MIDWEST

Copyright, A. P. Wirephoto.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wesley Frame after their marriage yesterday at the Park Lane Hotel, New York. The bride is the former Miss Rosalind Kress, daughter of the Kress Chain Stores' owner. She is 24 and Frame is 28. They are motoring to Miami.

# Conservatism Coming to Fore.

But even if the prophets of radicalism still have their millions of followers, there are signs that the basic conservatism of the land-owning people is again on the march. I had an interesting discussion on this point with one of the local leaders of the Progressive machine in Northern Wisconsin. He was a small business man who had never been in politics.

He said that the great danger to the country was the danger of the great corporate interests and on the other the dangers of State socialism. The only defense against these dangers was, in his mind, the organization of the men and women of small property to protect their own interests against the two threats.

**Feeling Widespread.**

The feeling expressed and translated into action by this man is widespread throughout the country. It is basically a conservative movement, even though it may prefer radical candidates like the La Follette to the representatives of the old parties.

These people, many of whom were formerly Republicans, and would be glad to support a moderate, conservative party, have the feeling that the present Republican party is the party of reaction. They are particularly distrustful of its Eastern leaders—so much so that for an outsider merely mention of names as Henry Fletcher, Ogden Mills or Dave Reed is to risk unpopularity. Vandenberg of Michigan is regarded as more "reasonable," and a reorganization under his leadership might well meet with a larger popular response, but the Middle Western Republicans demand Western leadership, not Eastern; progressive, not reactionary.

# DOUBLE CANDIDACY BY LONG POSSIBLE

Observers Say He Could Run for Senate After Governorship.

By the Associated Press.

BATON ROUGE, La., March 1.—Political Louisiana speculated today over Senator Huey P. Long's announcement that he would be a candidate for Governor in January, 1936.

As the special session of the Legislature prepared to speed 25 new bills on to final passage tomorrow, ending another of the momentous five-day gatherings of law makers, conversation in State House circles centered around the Senator's announced candidacy.

The gubernatorial primary is set for January, 1936, the same date as the primary for the United States Senate seat Long now holds. Some observers thought it unlikely that Long would relinquish his seat in the Senate, particularly in view of his presidential aspirations.

The senatorial election formerly was scheduled for the Fall of 1936, but by a recent law it was moved up to January. It was said, however, that it would be an easy matter for Long to set the Senate date back again so that he could run for Governor in January and then, if he wished, for Senator later in the year.

The House yesterday readily passed all of Long's measures and sent them over to the Senate, which promptly referred them to its Finance Committee, which in turn immediately reported them favorably.

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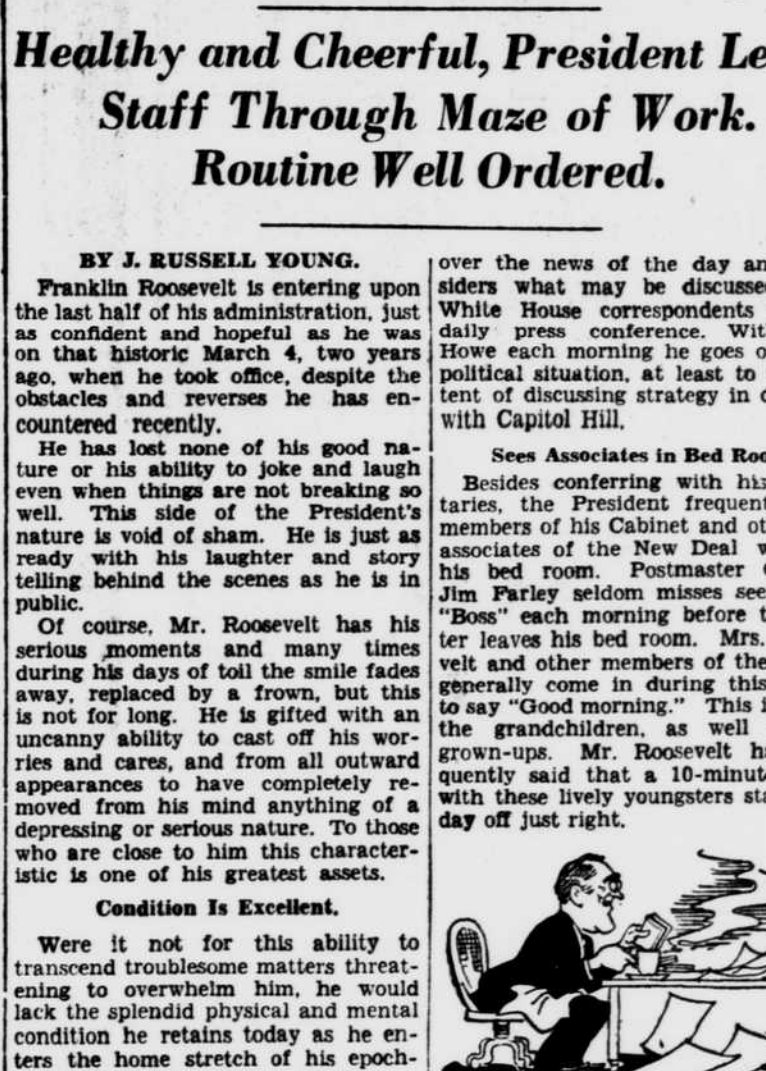
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# Roosevelt Enters Last Half Of Term in Confident Spirit

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# Healthy and Cheerful, President Leads Staff Through Maze of Work. Routine Well Ordered.

BY J. RUSSELL YOUNG.

Franklin Roosevelt is entering upon the last half of his administration, just as confident and hopeful as he was on that historic March 4, two years ago, when he took office, despite the obstacles and reverses he has encountered recently.

He has lost none of his good nature or his ability to joke and laugh even when things are not breaking so well. This side of the President's nature is void of sham. He is just as divided as to leaders and objectives. In Minnesota Gov. Floyd Olson, who ran last Autumn on an ultra-radical State-socialist platform, is losing ground—due in part to the strikes last year, he had to put down with force. In Wisconsin the La Follette is popular, except among conservative business men. Everywhere Father Coughlin is regarded as an oracle.

Even the redoubtable Huey is beginning to arouse interest—apparently for the reason that of all the alluring economic gold bricks yet offered to the American people none has been so ingeniously designed to appeal to the economically uninformed as his suggestion that the topmost limit of personal fortunes be set at \$50,000, but that everyone be assured of a minimum of at least \$15,000. This knocks Townsendism and the forced distribution of wealth into a cocked hat.

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# Finding Leaders Is Problem.

The great problem of the Republican Party in the Middle West, as elsewhere, is to find men to take the lead. The issues will ultimately be easier to crystallize and it will then be easier for the Republican party to secure a division of opinion. For the present, however, opinions differ so sharply as to what the party should stand for that personalities inevitably are very much to the fore.

The old familiar leaders are, for the most part, dead. In Wisconsin and Illinois important groups of younger Republicans are hoping to obtain a larger share in the direction of party affairs. They cannot, however, dispense with or compete with the old leaders. But they feel that most of these leaders have been so frequently and effectively denounced as blind and reactionary during the last few years that they have come to be regarded as "damned good" and as such must be gradually replaced by other men.

**Democrats Seize Opportunity.**

The Democratic party, of course, is making the most of its opportunity. It has captured States, counties and towns in districts which for generations had been solidly Republican. Mr. Parley is not a man to let the grass grow under his feet. As a result he has extended the Tammany system of organization and assistance throughout all of these Republican strongholds. His task has been facilitated by the tendency of business leaders to support the successful Democratic machine instead of the Republican party, while it was in power, they usually contributed liberally. The Republicans are thus not only without leaders, but also without funds, and into the bargain, are believed to be the party of reaction.

**Roosevelt Insures Supremacy.**

The unknown factor in this situation is how strong the new Democratic machine in the Middle West will be when Franklin Roosevelt is no longer in the picture. So long as he is in the White House his great personal popularity and prestige insure Democratic supremacy. If he were a man of less political astuteness and personal charm it would be easier to predict how long it will be before he loses his popularity as completely as did Mr. Hoover. At present this date seems a dim future. The more things that he does which are unpopular the greater the tendency to exonerate him from all responsibility for his acts. Mr. Roosevelt is still supreme. His magic radio voice can always recall the erring sheep to his fold. His readiness to discard unpopular advisers and unsuccessful policies keeps always a little ahead of popular criticism. The people have faith in Franklin Roosevelt. And that faith is still unshaken.

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# PRESIDENT PLANS TWO MESSAGES

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