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DIFFERENT VIEWS HELD ON D. C. TAX BY HOUSE GROUP

Arnold of Illinois, Newest
Member, Believes Sales
Tax Will Solve Problems.

INCREASE IN FEDERAL PAYMENT ADVOCATED

Chairman Nichols Favors Mod-
ified Business Privilege Levy
to Increase Revenue.

By JAMES E. CHINN.
Representative Arnold, Democrat, of
Illinois, latest addition to the Fiscal
Affairs Subcommittee of the House
District Committee—the group that
will write the new tax-increase legisla-
tion—revealed himself today as a
staunch advocate of a general sales
tax.

"A sales tax saved Illinois, and I
believe it will save the District," he
declared.

Mr. Arnold, however, is the only sales
tax supporter on the subcommittee.
Each of the other members at the
present time have a different view as
to how the District should raise an
additional \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000 to
balance its budget in the coming
fiscal year.

For instance, Representative Nich-
ols, Democrat, of Oklahoma, the
chairman, feels the present widely
condemned business privilege tax, in
a modified form, is superior to a sales
tax. Moreover, he does not believe
Congress would approve a sales tax,
especially after President Roosevelt
told the members yesterday that such
a levy would place the burden of
Government "more on those least able
to pay and less on those most able
to pay."

Short Is Foe of Sales Tax.

Representative Short, Republican,
of Missouri, another new addition to
the subcommittee, believes the present
\$1.75 real estate and personal property
tax levy should be continued and the
Federal payment toward District ex-
penses increased to meet the antici-
pated budget deficit. A bitter foe of a
sales tax, Short declared:

"I am amazed at the small amount
the Federal Government pays toward
the support of Washington. I did not
reach that conclusion until I had
made a survey of the vast amount
of property the United States has
taken from the District tax rolls. I
believe other members of Congress
would form the same opinion if they
take the trouble to study the fiscal
relations situation."

The most ardent income tax sup-
porter on the subcommittee is Rep-
resentative Cole, Republican, of New
York. He plans to fight all sales tax
proposals as well as an increase in the
Federal payment until the District
has an income tax.

The views of Representative Wood,
Democrat, of Missouri, the only other
member of the subcommittee, are un-
known. He has not yet returned for
the new session of Congress.

Favors \$5,000,000 Payment.

Mr. Arnold, like Cole, favors an
income tax for the District and be-
lieves the Federal Government's pres-
ent \$5,000,000 payment is fair. How-
ever, he thinks a flat sales tax
should be adopted for the period of
financial emergency.

"The sales tax is working success-
fully in Illinois," said Mr. Arnold.
"The State would not have survived
its financial dilemma growing out of
a big relief bill and a break-down in
real estate taxes without it."

"I believe a sales tax is necessary
in Washington at this time. It is
one method of forcing those who
escape taxation here to pay for some
of the benefits they receive."

Mr. Nichols plans to call his sub-
committee together Thursday for a
preliminary meeting, at which ar-
rangements will be made for an in-
tensive study of the various proposals
for keeping the District out of the
red in the coming fiscal year.

MODERNIZATION DRIVES HELD AID TO JOBLESS

James W. Follin Outlines Value
Before Meeting of D. C.
Building Congress.

The great assistance a drive to mod-
ernize homes and commercial prop-
erty can furnish in alleviating unem-
ployment among construction workers
in a community was outlined by
members of the Washington Building
Congress yesterday by James W. Follin
of the Federal Home Loan Bank
Board. The congress held its regular
monthly luncheon meeting at the
Lafayette Hotel.

Mr. Follin, who conducted success-
ful "renovator" campaigns in Philadel-
phia and Rhode Island, declared that
such a drive would be of great help
here during the current business
slump. He also suggested holding a
campaign each winter to furnish em-
ployment when under normal condi-
tions building construction has its sea-
sonal drop.

Theodore I. Coe, prominent architect
and president of the congress, intro-
duced the speaker at the luncheon,
which brought out nearly a half hun-
dred members of the organization.

BAND CONCERT.

By the Soldiers' Home Band Orches-
tra, today at 5:30 p.m. in Stanley
Hall; John S. M. Zimmermann, band-
master; Anton Pointner, assistant.

Program.
March, "World's Peace." Zamecnik
Overture Hungarian, "Tika." Roppler
Duet for trombone and cornet, "A
Night in Venice." Lucantoni
Musicians Robert E. Clark and
Frank Bernard.

Selection, "Ziegfeld's Follies of 1921,"
Victor Herbert
Popular numbers:
"After My Laughter Came Tears,"
Turk
"Because You're Irish" Van Alstyne
waltz suite, "Imortellen." Gungl
Finale, "When Everything Is Har-
mony" Wenrich
"The Star Spangled Banner."

Women Share Spotlight at Opening Congress Session



Mrs. Sara Roosevelt, leaving the Capitol yesterday, seems well-pleased with the way in which her son addressed the opening session of Congress.



The wives of four Speakers, past and present. Seated at left, Mrs. John N. Garner, whose husband now is Vice President. Seated at right, Mrs. Bankhead, wife of Speaker William B. Bankhead. Rear, Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, left, and Mrs. Frederick H. Gillette, widows of former Speakers.



Mrs. Roosevelt, as she sat in the gallery of the House, listening to her son's annual message to the joint session.

WAGE BOARD COOL TO CHALLENGE ON MERGED HEARINGS

Fails to Upset Plan of Blan-
ket Policy for Seven-
teen Groups.

PROCEDURE PROTESTED BY BUILDING OWNERS

Real Estate Group Charges No
Representation on Committee
Speeding Up Scale Fixing.

Despite a challenge to the legality
of its procedure in blanketing various
occupations to speed up the determi-
nation of the lowest living wages for
Washington's women workers, the
Minimum Wage Board gave no indica-
tion today that it would yield to de-
mands for separate conferences in the
case of each occupation or industry.

The challenge and demands were
made late yesterday at a public hear-
ing before the board by spokesmen of
the building owners, real estate firms,
boarding and rooming houses and a
few other related businesses.

Their protests were aimed at the
procedure under which a conference
committee of the board is going about
the business of fixing the wage for
employees in hotels, restaurants and
"allied industries." Altogether, 17
different classifications of occupations
and industries are being considered in
this connection.

Claim Representation Lacking.

Russ Lusk, secretary of the
Building Owners and Managers Asso-
ciation, and Charles J. Rush, execu-
tive secretary of the Washington Real
Estate Board, were the principal
spokesmen for the 50 or more attend-
ing the hearing. With others, they
protested they were "without repre-
sentation" on the conference commit-
tee, which is composed of 12 members
representing the public, the employers
and the employees.

The two principal spokesmen con-
tended furthermore that section 10
of the Minimum Wage Act is quite clear
in its intent.

"It means," said Mr. Lusk, "that the
board shall consider wages by each
occupation, one at a time, and not by
17 all at once as it is endeavoring to
do now."

The three members of the board,
Mrs. William Kittle, chairman, Arthur
Schoenberger, representative for the em-
ployees, and Claude Woodward for the
employers withheld a decision. It was
apparent from their defense of the
board's procedure that it will decline
to conduct separate hearings for any
one of the 17 occupations.

Seek Speed on Rates.
Repeatedly, individual members of
the board urged it to speed up its
possible to conduct separate confer-
ences for each industry because of the
urgency of fixing wage scales as
speedily as possible. They also con-
tended that the personnel of the con-
ference under question would provide
an opportunity for "fair considera-
tion."

Mr. Lusk said the buildings and
apartment houses allied with his as-
sociation represent an industry which
pays almost \$4,000,000 in real estate
taxes alone, and which employs about
30,000 women.

"If a too-high minimum wage is
set for our women workers, most of
whom do char work, many such work-
ers will immediately lose their jobs
and be replaced by men," he said.
"Our industry cannot afford to pay
wages that high, particularly for part-time
workers."

Threaten to Hire Men.
Spokesmen for several employers
threatened to employ men in the place
of charwomen if the latter were in-
cluded in the minimum wage scale.
Board officials recalled afterward that
the same "threat" had been made by
the same spokesmen when the wage
board was considering a plan that it had
to be fixed for retail trade clerks.

A Julian Brylawski of the Warner
Bros. realty division insisted that men
are better housekeepers than the el-
derly women who do char work. He
added that many of the charwomen
had been allowed to retain their jobs
because they had been employed so
long their employers did not want to
let them go.

Board officials gave no indication
that they would eliminate charwomen
from the classifications of workers now
considered for the minimum wage.

The Minimum Wage Board, an-
nounced after the session that it had
obtained information that day from
various Government departments in-
dicating that the wages of charwomen
in Government buildings averaged
from a minimum of \$1.08 per year
and some received \$1.14.

If the policy demanded at the hear-
ing is carried out there would possibly
be separate conferences to determine
the problems presented in each of the
following classifications:
Restaurants, lunch counters, cafe-
terias; catering, banquet or box lunch
services; curb service; boarding
houses offering meals for sale to four
or more persons; all other establish-
ments offering meals; hotels, apart-
ment houses, rooming houses, automo-
bile camps, clubs, hospitals, private
schools, colleges, any other establish-
ment serving meals for rent and
women engaged in the service and
service of office buildings, retail stores
and similar establishments.

The jewels, a colorful display of
diamonds, emeralds and rubies, are
being loaned by a New York jewelry
firm for the exhibition and will be
shown the following day at a local
downtown jeweler's where they will
be kept until the exhibition at the
Mayflower.

PROTEST OF D. C. ACCOUNTING MET

Hazen Says Legislation and
\$26,000 Item Anticipated
Protest on System.

Commissioner Melvin C. Hazen said
today that a pending legislative pro-
gram and a \$26,000 item in the Dis-
trict's system of accounting made by
Acting Controller General Richard N.
Elliott.

"We've beat him to it this time,"
Mr. Hazen remarked by way of ex-
plaining that similar charges of "ir-
regularities" had been made by the
controller general's office for the last
10 years.

Auditor Daniel J. Donovan had no
comment. He said he preferred to
leave comment to the Commissioners.

As a result of last year's report by
the controller general a committee
of citizens and Mr. Donovan and
Chatham Towers, collector of taxes,
was appointed to recommend ways of
improving the accounting system.
Their recommendations were turned
over to the corporation counsel, El-
wood H. Seal.

The program involved certain
measures to correct minor defects
and the administration of overdue
taxes, etc. A \$26,000 estimate was
included in the budget for the pur-
chase of necessary equipment in the
office of the collector and assessor
of taxes, and a third point involved
legislation intended to introduce ef-
ficiency measures in the two tax
offices.

Mr. Hazen explained that in years
past various recommendations made
by the controller general's office had
been adopted and put into practice.
"Some others were ignored because
there seemed to be no need for them,"
he added.

D. C. TAX SUBPOENAS PREPARED FOR 2,000

Assessor Warns Full Use Will Be
Made of New Powers to
Collect Levies.

Declaring that full use would be
made of the new powers granted at
the last session of Congress, Tax As-
sessor Fred D. Allen today warned
that subpoenas are being prepared for
service against some 2,000 persons,
seeking to compel them to file personal
property tax returns.

So far 16 subpoenas have been
served and many more will follow, he
said.

Assistant Tax Assessor Charles A.
Russell, who has charge of personal
property returns, notified Mr. Allen
this morning that he has received
some 46,000 personal returns for the
year and believes that at least 48,000
should have been filed.

Real estate assessments have been
prepared for the next fiscal year and
taxpayers now may examine the books
to determine if they wish to make any
appeal, Mr. Allen announced. Appeals
may be filed with the Board of Equal-
ization and Review from now to the
end of the year. Thereafter the books
will be closed and bills rendered
for the new year.

The annual "auction" sale of tax
deeds of realty owners who have failed
to pay last year's assessments will be
held in the office of Tax Collector
Chatham M. Towers from January 11
to 20. About 25,000 delinquent ac-
counts have been advertised for sale.

TAXI ASSOCIATION SUED FOR \$100,000 DAMAGES

Passenger Declares Beating by
Driver Caused Loss of
Sight in One Eye.

Charging a taxicab driver struck
him in the eye with a hammer, causing
him to become blind in one eye, James
H. Ashurst, Jr., 4550 Connecticut ave-
nue N.W., filed suit in District Court
today against the Independent Taxi
Owners' Association, Inc., for \$100,000
damages.

Through Attorneys Alvin L. New-
myer and Buford A. Lynch, Mr.
Ashurst told the court the alterca-
tion occurred about midnight Nov-
ember 15 while he was a passenger
in the cab. It allegedly was preceded
by a dispute over the amount of the
fare.

Frank T. Rowe, 2518 Seventeenth
street N.W., owner of the cab, also
was named defendant. Another man
was driving the cab at the time of
the occurrence.

COLLINS TO PROBE UTILITY CHARGES

Car Fares and Phone and
Fire Insurance Rates
Face Scrutiny.

Ignoring the 1939 District budget
estimates temporarily, a House sub-
committee on appropriations planned
today to delve into the reasonableness
of street car fares, telephone and
fire insurance rates.

Car fares and telephone rates are
to be discussed when members of
the Public Utilities Committee ap-
pear before the subcommittee to de-
fend 1939 budget estimates. J. Balch
Moore, superintendent of insurance, is
to be questioned about fire insurance
rates when he takes the witness stand
for the same purpose.

Chairman Collins of the subcom-
mittee, whose ire was aroused in No-
vember when the commission granted
the Capital Transit Co. an increase
in token fares, plans to ask about
the justification for the higher fares.
He also intends to inquire about tele-
phone rates—a subject he went into
during the budget hearings a year ago.

Executive Fire Rates Charged.
Representative Engle, Republican,
of Michigan will take the lead in in-
terrogating Mr. Moore about fire in-
surance rates. At the hearings last year
he charged that District fire in-
surance rates were excessive, and that
policyholders were being overcharged
nearly \$1,000,000 a year.

The subcommittee spent most of its
initial hearings yesterday considering
the financial situation of the District
and methods of raising sufficient re-
venue in the coming fiscal year to
meet an anticipated deficit, estimated
to range from \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000.
In addition, it considered 1939 bud-
get estimates of the tax assessor's office,
the office of the collector of taxes,
the corporation counsel's office and
the coroner's office.

Higher Gas Tax Proposed.

Although the subcommittee has no
authority to vote the new tax legisla-
tion, Chairman Collins suggested that
the budget deficit could be met in the
coming fiscal year by a 1-cent in-
crease in the gasoline tax and con-
tinuing the present \$1.75 tax on real
estate and personal property. The
real and personal property levy is
 slated to return to \$1.50 at the close
of the current fiscal year.

Mr. Collins also indicated his ap-
proval of a Budget Bureau recom-
mendation to transfer an item of
\$765,000 for street lighting in the new
fiscal year from the gasoline tax re-
venue to the general revenues. Such
a transfer, he said, would not con-
stitute diversion of the gas tax re-
venues, nor would it jeopardize a pro-
spective allotment to the District of
Federal highway aid funds.

"I know of no valid reason why
motorists should not pay for street
lights," said Mr. Collins. "Every bit
of testimony I have heard shows the
lights are necessary to safety."

Even with the transfer, Mr. Col-
lins explained, the District would
have \$1,000,000 more for highway
improvements in the coming fiscal
year than it did for the current fiscal
year.

TWO BOYS ARE INJURED IN STREET CAR MISHAP

One May Have Fractured Skull,
Other Suffers Minor
Leg Hurt.

Two boys were injured, one perhaps
seriously, when they were struck by a
street car yesterday while crossing in
the 1300 block of
Fourteenth street
N.W.

They were
Richard Henderson,
12, of 3218
Georgia avenue
N.W., and Dom-
inic Panone, 14,
of 519 Irving
street N.W. at
Garfield Hospital.

It was said Richard
may have a
fractured skull
and that Dominic
suffered a minor
leg injury.

Police said the street car was op-
erated by Edward Widmeyer, 53, of
1349 Hamilton street N.W.

Badminton Match Tonight.
A badminton match between four
experienced District players will fea-
ture an "open house" for adults pro-
gram tonight at All Souls' Recreation
Center. The players are David Lan-
dera, Miss Margaret Graham, George
Heckert and Miss Eleanor Plabum.

Pine Outlines New Program To Speed Criminal Court Cases

Acting U. S. Attorney Puts in Effect
Plan to Increase Efficiency by Use of
New Facilities Allowed by Judiciary.

A general administrative tighten-
ing-up, based on several months of
study aimed at a speedier and more
efficient handling of criminal
prosecution of all kinds, was effected
today by Acting United States At-
torney David A. Pine.

All felony cases now awaiting trial—
some 575 in number—were reviewed
this morning at a conference between
Mr. Pine and his assistants, and each
assistant was allotted his proportion-
ate share of the total. The assistants
were instructed to study the cases to-
day and tonight and be prepared to
report tomorrow afternoon on the ap-
proximate length of time they would
require for preparation for trial.

Mr. Pine made it clear he was not
attempting any long-range planning,
but desired to take fullest advantage
of the additional facilities of a third
criminal division of District Court,
which was created by order of the
courts effective today. Justice Daniel
W. O'Donoghue will preside.

"These ideas which we intend to
put into effect immediately are not
wholly new, but the result of study
and frequent consultation with Mr.
Garnett during the last few months
and determined upon before his resig-
nation," the chief prosecutor ex-
plained.

Leslie C. Garnett retired from
office last Friday and Mr. Pine was
designated by the justices of the
District Court to act as United States
attorney pending a nomination by
President Roosevelt for the post.

Details of the projected adminis-
trative plan were announced and
mullied over at a staff conference of
Mr. Pine and his assistants late yester-
day.

Responsibility of each assistant for
the cases assigned to him will be
emphasized.

"Each case, as an indictment is
returned, will be assigned to an as-
sistant who will remain in charge of
that case," Mr. Pine asserted.

GROVER ROBBED OF \$163; DOCTORS ALSO VICTIMS

Two White Men Hold Up Store
Proprietor and Escape
Through Rear Door.

Two white men held him up in his
grocery store at 201 Kennedy street
N.W. last night and escaped through
a rear door with \$163 in cash, Nathan
Supar, 5521 Second street N.W., re-
ported to police.

Three doctors were victims of other
robberies. They were Dr. Paul Egan,
4847 Illinois avenue N.W.; Dr. George
W. Lady, 624 East Capitol street, and
Dr. William J. Vane of the Naval
Dental Hospital, who lives at 1717 P
street N.W.

Dr. Egan's bag, containing \$100
worth of morphine, was stolen from
an automobile parked on W street
near Thirteenth street N.W. Dr.
Lady said some one climbed a ladder
to a second-story window of his home
and stole a watch and ring valued at
\$40. Dr. Vane reported the theft of
two naval officers' uniforms, valued at
\$100.

Ex-Convict, Successful Taxi Driver, Protected by Court

Authorities today lent a sympathetic
ear to the story of a former convict
whose new life and family were all
but ruined by the inquiries of a cel-
mate.

The former convict was brought into
Police Court on a charge of obtain-
ing a taxicab driver's license under
false representations. It developed
he had given a fictitious name to get
the permit.

The defendant did not deny the
charge. He told his story to Judge
Walter J. Case, who later verified it.
In 1926 the man was convicted of
taking a stolen automobile across a
State line—a Federal offense. He was
sentenced to two years' imprisonment
and served his time at the Federal
Penitentiary in Atlanta. On leaving
prison he went to Newport News, Va.
resolved to "go straight." He found
a job there and worked for several
weeks, until his employer learned of
his record and discharged him.

Determined to live down his past, the
ex-convict came to Washington, where
he found a job driving a taxicab. He
changed his name under the convic-
tion that his real name might offer a
clue to his past and destroy the new
opportunity for which he worked.

The false name brought seeming
security. He worked regularly, found a
home and married. He told his story
to the judge, who later verified it. He
was driving a cab here. He went to
the hack inspector's office to learn how
he could locate his "pal."

The former convict was informed
that no person by the name he gave
was driving a cab in Washington. The
friend was insistent and photographs
were produced. Going through the
pictures, the ex-convict pointed out
his cellmate.

The man then was arrested.
Judge Casey ordered a thorough in-
vestigation of the hacker's story.
When he found it was true, he re-
leased the defendant on his personal
bond.

The court plans to help the man
have his assumed name legalized.

DIRKSEN IS BARRED AT TRANSIT PROBE

Palmisano Turns Deaf Ear
to Proposal to Let Him
Finish Work.

Representative Dirksen, Republican,
of Illinois, vigorous foe of high street
car fares and one-man car operations,
was definitely barred today by Chair-
man Palmisano of the House District
Committee from taking an active part
in the impending renewal of the in-
vestigation of the Capital Transit Co.

Mr. Palmisano announced that the
inquiry which Mr. Dirksen initiated
at the last regular session of Con-
gress would have to be included by
the newly created standing commit-
tee on Public Utilities. The investi-
gation was started by a special sub-
committee of which Mr. Dirksen was
a member. However, the Illinoisan
was not appointed to the Utilities
Subcommittee.

Representative Randolph, Democrat,
of West Virginia, who headed the spe-
cial transit investigating subcommi-
tee, and was named chairman of the
new Utilities Subcommittee, had hoped
Mr. Palmisano would permit the for-
mer group to complete its work, so Mr.
Dirksen could make use of a mass of
data he has collected about the trans-
portation situation. Mr. Palmisano,
however, turned deaf ears to the pro-
posal.

Mr. Dirksen also took an active part
in the last regular session of Congress
in writing the current tax increase
program, but he was not appointed to
the Fiscal Affairs Subcommittee which
will frame the new tax increase legisla-
tion for the coming fiscal year.

"I did not slight Mr. Dirksen," de-
clared Mr. Palmisano. "I merely placed
members in the same position they
held on standing subcommittees before
they were abolished by former Chair-
man Norton. Mr. Dirksen was not a
member of the old Public Utilities Sub-
committee or the old Fiscal Affairs
Committee."

As ranking minority member of the
District Committee, Mr. Dirksen had
planned to make an issue of Mr. Pal-
misano's appointments at a meeting
of the full committee tomorrow. He
said today, however, a speaking en-
gagement would prevent him from at-
tending the meeting.

COUNTERFEIT \$20 BILL IS FOUND ON SLAIN MAN

Taken Off Body of Victim Stabbed
to Death Christmas Eve
at "Social Club."

The Treasury Department was not-
ified yesterday by Detective Sergt.
Aubrey M. Tolson of the homicide squad
that a counterfeit \$20 bill was found
on the body of Joshua W. Collins, 27,
colored, 1700 block of Thirteenth
street N.W., who was stabbed to death
Christmas Eve at a "social club" in
the 1800 block of Seventh street N.W.

Sergt. Tolson also reported a coun-
terfeit \$5 bill was found in the pockets
of Carroll C. Brown, 21, colored, 600
block of I street S.E., who was arrested
in connection with Collins' death.
Brown told police he had obtained the
bill from Collins.

Both bills, Sergt. Tolson stated,
had been stamped counterfeit in large
red letters, but the letters were erased
partially, he said.

GROUP HEALTH UNIT ADDS 260 MEMBERS

Rural Electrification and Security
Board Employees Are
Accepted.