

# THE FRONTIER

D. H. Cronin, Editor and Proprietor  
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Old time Washington residents tell members that the town looks pretty much like it did years before the World War. Lots of foreigners lecturing and talking armaments. Uncle Sam admits now he is helping France buy airplanes in America. Foreign diplomats know that Uncle Sam will help Great Britain too. Inner circle gossip is that we now have pretty close relationship with France and England. Some body asked one of the highest officials in our government if we would also sell planes to Germany or Italy. The answer was a veiled "NO."

While congressman are surprised that we are making planes for France, foreign relation officials feel that France was caught "napping" so far as airplanes are concerned. When the count was made, "over there" England and France were far behind their neighbors in airplanes. So Uncle Sam was called on to deliver. Anyway, members are assured that in selling planes to foreigners who are in the armament race, no military secrets are released.

Talking about secrets—a tea party usually brings together military and naval attaches of foreign nations. That is true especially when American army or naval officers give the parties. A lot of times American officers at these parties have this to say: "These foreign attaches are really spies. They are really here to find something out which they report back to their governments. We Americans are liberal and show them about everything. Of course, our attaches in foreign countries do the same thing, but it is unusual if the foreigners are as liberal and show our attaches as much courtesy." Now that the spy fever is at its height in Washington, America may not show the visiting attaches so much, but generally the nations of the world know pretty much about each other. Every committee hearing that is printed and every congressional record is devoured in foreign offices here.

Weekly meetings are being held by farm district congressmen on legislation which asks for refinancing farmers at low rates of interest and also legislation which has to do with cost of production. This group feels that if industry and labor are going to be guaranteed profits or living wages, the farmers must be considered. Half a dozen senators and about fifty house members attend these meetings. While this is going on, the agriculture committee members are worrying about proposed improvements of the present agricultural adjustment act. With a dozen so-called farm organizations operating from headquarters here, farm legislation is again paramount. Nearly everybody working on farm legislation seems agreed that unless the farmer's purchasing power is increased to match purchasing power of industry and labor, there will be no real recovery in America.

The American ambassador to Argentine told a large group of women the other day that the Argentine people are mad at us because we are spreading the story that there is hoof and mouth disease among Argentine beef cattle. This American ambassador feels that if we don't buy Argentine beef we ought to buy Argentine mutton. Then maybe the Argentine people won't be mad at us anymore. American beef and mutton growers think American ought to buy American meats first whether the Argentine people get mad or not.

"Off the record" stories in committees would give American readers a shock. Committees are meeting in public and executive sessions but never in many years has there been so much care taken on what goes into the record or what

goes out through the "off record" plan. At each of these meetings or hearings an expert reporter takes down every utterance unless members instruct him that "this is off the record." After the hearings are ended, each member of the committee gets proofs of the hearings in order to correct his remarks. In this way many important statements of high government officials never appear in print. Sometimes that is to safeguard the government from the foreign researchers who in many cases can read "between the lines."

The government's two billion dollar stabilization fund seems to be a mystery to members who want to know what is being done with it. Thus far there has been no denial that it has been used partly to speculate in French francs. Demands for an explanation are continuing.

The WPA administration will be cut up into ten instead of the present five regional districts. Nebraska which has been served by the Chicago office will work through the new St. Paul district when that is opened about the middle of February. The new WPA chief Col. Harrington feels that the reorganization will bring the work closer to the various states. Chicago has served thirteen states. St. Paul will now serve Minnesota, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas, where it is felt conditions are pretty similar. It is hoped to give these states better service. Asked if this will result in more white collar jobs, WPA officials say, no, and assure members that the actual relief will not suffer. Nebraska gets 1000 additional quota this month and the headquarters here have been asked to give Nebraska drouth districts special attention during the cold months.

Every new improvement to the government building means a tremendous expense to the taxpayers. The new air conditioning system in the capitol hill buildings is one of these. At first it was thought they could install it for two million dollars. When they finished it cost four millions. The sad story is that it costs two hundred thousand dollars a year to keep it running.

There are five and a half million books and pamphlets in the Congressional Library. This number grows at the rate of 200,000 a year. The new library annex is completed and today our library is said to be the biggest in the world. Nearly every library in our country draws books or service from this federal institution.

A Kansas member has introduced a bill to make the nation's capitol dry. Hotels and cafes say it would kill the town. Nearly every other place in the town serves intoxicating liquor. There's not a reception, tea or party without that stimulant. More of it is consumed here, according to reports, than any other town in the country. Lobbyists say they wouldn't get very far without it. They say important people who never talk, usually limber up when they drink. The Kansas member admits he won't get far with his bill but he says the nation's capitol should be dry. He knows that if that happens the drinks would come from states across the river or from the many foreign embassies which have never been dry, even during our prohibition days. That was when the foreign embassies were more popular than they are today.

The loud speaking system remains in the House. Members are getting used to it and visitors in the gallery can now hear what is being said. Experts says business has improved about 25% in the rapidity with which roll calls and sessions are held. Indications are that the loud speakers which were jerked out four years ago are in the House of Representatives to stay for some time.

## THE NEBRASKA SCENE

By the Lowell Service

Lincoln, Nebraska — Chairman Frank Brady, republican, chairman of the appropriations committee of the legislature, launched a spirited attack on Governor Cochran's state spending agencies. State assistance and the board of control bore the brunt of the initial assault. Other agencies are expected to undergo criticism.

Neil C. Vandemoer, state assistance director, and C. W. Eubank, of the board of control, asked for more money after the governor had slipped in an economy budget, according to Brady. Sometime ago \$440,000 in "error money" was asked for assistance. Then \$300,000 more was requested.

After criticizing the officials for exceeding the budget, Chairman Brady declared: "This is not the only activity overspending. If we cannot hold them within their budgets, there is no need of our coming down here. Two years ago the governor first said that 6 1/2 millions by the state would be adequate for assistance. By a series of messages he raised this to 7 1/2 millions. If the amount is not adequate, that is for the legislature and not some department to determine. They could have carried on as the legislature intended by making proper division by month or by quarter."

John Callan, democrat, defended the relief policy of the governor. "But one question is involved," Callan said, "Do we want people needing relief to receive what they have been getting?"

Curtalement of assistance by federal agencies caused the increased pressure on local officials, he asserted.

Legislative observers predicted considerable partisan feeling during the remainder of the session, with republicans forcing reorganization measures that would give patronage plums to the state treasurer, auditor and attorney general.

Measures to license, legislate and administer in a paternalistic way to bakers, electricians, plumbers and all other lines received a severe setback when the master bakers met with defeat. The senate commerce committee killed a price fixing bill introduced at the request of the bakers.

Fire Marshal Horace Davis really drew the prize. He was anxious to charge farmers and city dwellers \$3.50 for electrical inspection.

Thirteen addressed the committee urging passage of LB 95 and 96. After listening to the discussion, the committee killed both bills. Barbers, automobile dealers, druggists, plumbers, liquor dealers and the Nebraska Retailer's association are all represented in the lobbying, clamoring for state regulation in their various lines.

In the title of the bill to regulate electricians was the following statement: "An act for safeguarding people and property and to promote the welfare of the general public."

The painter and decorators put it this way: "An act for prevention of fraud on the public." All of the licensing bills extol the theme of protection of life, limb, or property. However, appeals for business uplifting do not seem to appeal to legislators this session.

Omaha and Lincoln auto dealers were not in the least discouraged by the turn of events against state regulations. J. J. McCruteon, secretary of the Nebraska Auto Dealer's association, last week, urged that weak points in Nebraska's "little NRA law" be patched up, that the license fee for used car dealers be hiked from \$5 to \$10 and that finance companies come under the regulatory act and obtain licenses.

Aeroplane interests also desire some state regulation. The aeronautics commission has settled the bitter feud in its ranks. Secretary I. V. Packard said that with a united front, aviators would insist that gasoline taxes paid the state be used to further the aviation industry.

The attempt to appoint another parole officer in Nebraska has aroused the opposition of Henry G. Meyer, of Omaha, president of the Nebraska Prison Welfare society. He characterized the effort as "a waste of time and money." About a year ago eastern prison welfare workers reported that M. F. Krascher, chief state probation officer, had declared that his office was "duck soup."

A WPA project is being sought by Adjutant General Guy Henninger which he hopes may be completed before the National Guard

encampment begins next summer. It is for work on the National Guard rifle range at Camp Ashland so that condemnation of the range may be lifted and rifle-armed companies may have a chance to take part in record firing.

Neil C. Vandemoer, state director of assistance recently announced the appointment of Mrs. Gertrude Allen as field representative for District six of the Nebraska assistance division. Her new territory will include the following counties: Buffalo, Custer, Dawson, Frontier, Greeley, Hall, Howard, Sherman, Valley and Red Willow. Mrs. Allen was formerly field representative for District one, at Lincoln.

An effort to kill the bill proposing extension of the delinquent tax moratorium law for one year received only five legislative votes last week, and it has been advanced to select file by unanimous vote. The motion to kill was made by Martin Mischke, of Crofton.

Bindweed, that insidious crop enemy which has brought grief to so many Nebraska farmers and gardeners, may be eradicated from the state by sodium chlorate manufactured in a plant for which Nebraska hydro districts will furnish the power. A resolution looking toward this desirable solution of the bindweed problem was passed Monday by the board of directors of the Nebraska Crop Growers association. The resolution asks that preliminary experimentation in sodium chlorate production be conducted by the TVA.

Twice as much money as was appropriated by the 1937 legislature has been asked of the appropriations committee by Dr. P. H. Bartholomew, state health director. He says it is needed to match federal funds. A suggestion was made that the department be authorized to sell some of its 38 cars, in case it became necessary to curtail the activities of the department.

After a lingering illness, beginning with a stroke suffered six years ago, W. T. Fenton, former warden of the Nebraska state penitentiary for 21 years, died at his home in Lincoln, Nebraska, Feb. 7. He is said to be the oldest warden in the United States in point of service, and in 1933, he declined to accept an appointment to be warden at Alcatraz. Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, Dr. Byron C. Fenton, of Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and a daughter, Mrs. Donald Gallagher, of Lincoln.

A bill introduced by R. H. Howard, of Flats, rancher member of the legislature, aims to curb cattle stealing in western Nebraska. He

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asks for a "brand inspection committee" of three men, to be appointed by the governor. These commissioners would have power to employ inspectors for full enforcement. It would be illegal, according to the provisions of the bill, to remove cattle from the ranch area by any means whatever unless they were brand-inspected or a permit to inspect at the receiving point had been granted.

WPA workers cannot clear snow-blocked roads. Orders from Washington have opposed snow removal as an approved WPA project for the last two years, although it was approved before that, according to a reply recently made by D. F. Felton, administrator of WPA in Nebraska, to queries sent from the Panhandle counties.

How to re-establish the farm windbreaks and woodlots that have disappeared in part or in entirety during the last few unfavorable years will be discussed at a statewide forestry meeting at Hastings, February 24. Co-operation will be given by the federated garden clubs in that area and by the Adams county farm bureau. The announcement has just been made by Extension Forester Clayton W. Watkins.

Have you given away a cigar or a cigarette since 1919? If so, it was against the law. A law passed in that year made it "unlawful for any person, partnership, or corporation to sell, keep for sale, or give away" tobacco without first obtaining a license. The 1939 unicameral legislature now has a bill advanced to select file to confine

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such an offense to unlicensed retailers or wholesalers of tobacco.

L. L. Dunn, of Lincoln has introduced more bills in the present legislative session than any other of his colleagues, and he held the same record in the 1937 session. He introduced 25 bills and signed 20 others. William J. Norman, of Omaha sponsored no bills alone, but signed 25 bills with others. J. L. Thornton, of Fairbury introduced only four bills.

A two-day harmony goodwill program was in progress in Omaha Saturday and Sunday, February 11 and 12, when all members of the state legislature, all elective state officials and the chief appointive officials and their families were the guests of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce. A special train brought the visitors to Omaha at noon for a luncheon in the Live Stock Exchange building and the afternoon was spent in visiting a number of Omaha institutions. Saturday night the state officials and the legislators and their families were guests at a dinner at the Chamber of Commerce, after which they were escorted to Omaha theatres

or to the Creighton-Drake basketball game.

A. C. Tilley, state highway engineer, who was formerly secretary of the Mississippi Valley Conference of State Highway Departments, was elected president of that organization at its recent annual meeting at Chicago. He succeeded C. W. Brown of Jefferson City, Mo., and C. Coykendall, of Ames, Iowa, was elected secretary.

State Treasurer T. W. Bass credits revenue from 1938 personal property taxes with the decline of the state general fund overdraft during January of \$242,780, making the overdraft now \$840,813.

One thing in favor of education is that anybody who has been to college doesn't hesitate to borrow his friend's clothes. An this is a display of nerve.

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ARMOUR'S STAR BRANDED BABY BEEF Come in and pick your favorite cut at a price which is reasonable for this class of meat.		Home Made LIVER WURST 3 rings	25c
Double Dipped Peanuts PEANUT Clusters, per lb.	15c	THOMPSON CHOCOLATE Malted Milk Reg. Sz. Can	49c
BLACK BIRD—Whole Baby BEETS No. 2 Can	15c	With 1 Free Streamlined Flash Light.	
Peaberry, Fresh Roasted and Ground to order.		AERO—No Rubbing Liquid Wax Pint Can	19c
COFFEE Per lb.	15c	1 Dutch Cleanser & 1 Bar of Coconut Oil	
FOR ROLL TOWELS Towel Holders Ivory or Green each	19c	Shampoo Soap Reg. 15c value	10c
Strawberries Fresh Frozen, pt.	25c	WINESAP—Med. Large APPLES Per doz.	18c
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TABLE SALT 10 Lb. Bags	17c
TABLE SALT 3 Lb. Bags	05c
TABLE SALT—IODIZED 26 oz. 07c 3 For	20c
OYSTER SHELL Pilot Brand 100 Lbs.	85c
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