

# Editorially Speaking

## The Plight of Democracy

The believers in democracy have had to find their loins lately to keep the faith. Democracy has suffered a set-back on the international front. The Brussels conference fizzled out because the representatives of democratic countries were not willing to pull together. All they wanted to do was talk. And that's all they did. Even with their own trade interests perilously at stake in face of Japan's conquest, they could not agree even to exert the passive force of a boycott on Japan and thus aid China.

In the interval while the Brussels fiasco was in progress, or regress, the one man governments staged a model lesson in co-operation by elching the German, Italian, Japanese alliance.

Talking and lack of co-operation also characterized the national front in America. The United States congress met for a special session. The occasion for the emergency get together was such minor problems as a nation-wide business recession, a wage and hour bill, tax revision, and a menacing farm problem. The members of the country's senior legislative body spent better than a week listening to a filibuster, admittedly just talking, by eight of its members on the comparatively unimportant matter of an anti-lynching bill.

Besides talking and lack of co-operation, the present congress is beset by a complexity in the problems it faces which gives pause. Can a democratic form of government resolve these difficulties? Can a number of men—instead of one man—ever agree on a method of resolving the paradox of balancing the national budget in the face of a needed tax revision calling for a reduction of levies on corporate surpluses and in face of a needed farm program calling for additional revenue?

To make matters worse both the tax problem and the farm are complicated by other

considerations than that of finance. The business recession is being blamed on the supposed stifling effect of the administration's taxation policy. There is no shred of evidence substantiating this view. It is a guess. And business is more than on its toes to take advantage of the guess to get its tax burden lightened.

The complexity of the farm problem can probably be best envisioned by the fact that the senate committee and the house committee seem to have decidedly different views as to how it should be resolved. Nor is there agreement about the senate's plan which seems to be preferred. The president would hold the cost down to \$500,000,000, but this amount is not enough to accomplish anything without using compulsion on the farmers. And coercion of any kind is wined at.

Other intricacies still considered very much moot points are: Adjustment contracts, binding farmers to abide by the government's production regulations; the provision for storing surpluses in line with the ever normal granary plan; the parity payments providing for making up the difference between market prices and a parity price level; and the marketing quotas to be set for overproduction years.

On top of these technical aspects of the problem, comes the disturbing voice of minority farm groups who are not satisfied that Uncle Sam should confine himself to corn, wheat, cotton, tobacco, and rice crops. The men from Wisconsin are very definite about their demands for dairy farmers.

Such a complex state of affairs puts our congressmen on the spot. And it puts democracy on the spot. Our legislators must act, and that quickly and wisely. If they do not, our people are going to begin considering, if not clamoring for, a centralization of power. We will begin toying with one-man governments that waste little time just talking, need not concern themselves over co-operation, and always manage to do something, at least, no matter how complex the situation.

## Highlights On the Air

By Elwood Randel

Those who listened to the broadcast of the Nebraska-Kansas State football game can well appreciate the fine quality of the description provided all season by Reggie Martin and John Shafer. The Wildcat school allows only one official announcing staff to broadcast the game as is done here at Memorial stadium. That is the reason that the local station did not have its own announcer at the mike.

Beatrice Lillie, famed comedienne, will present one of her famous "Aunt Bea's Bedtime Stories" in addition to exchanging quips with Al Jolson an Al's musical comedy show tonight at 7:30. Miss Lillie is in Hollywood doing "Dr. Rhythm" with Bing Crosby. Her trip to Finland follows closely upon the closing of her most recent and successful Broadway musical production, "The Show Is On." Outstanding titles among the long list of shows in which she has played are "The Third Little Show," and "At Home Abroad."

Royal Farmer on KFAB. His Majesty's manager of the Royal Farms at Windsor, England, Alexander Ritchie, who is serving as judge of the 35th International Livestock Exposition and Horse Show in Chicago, will be heard on the Columbia network this afternoon over KFAB at 3:35. How one goes about becoming the owner of the Grand Champion Steer of America will be explained in the broadcast and the owner of the No. 1 animal will be interviewed. Ritchie is serving as judge of the steer classes by special permission of King George VI of England.

William S. Paley, president of the Columbia Broadcasting System, yesterday told the Second National Conference on Educational Broadcasting that "Radio must never have an editorial page. Of course, I do not mean that any broadcaster as an individual may not express his own views like any other citizen. I state this principle of non-partisanship first, and I state it as emphatically as I can because I believe this is the cornerstone of democratic broadcasting." Paley's speech was delivered at the first general meeting of the eight-day session yesterday in Chicago.

Harriet Cruse Kemmer, featured KFAB vocalist until two years ago and former "Oriole of the Air", is back on the network again, singing as a member of the mixed chorus—four women and six men—on Vick's Open House starring Jeannette MacDonald and heard over KFAB every Sunday at 6 p. m. Mrs. Kemmer was in Chicago with the Columbia Broadcasting System two years ago as featured vocalist on the Pennzoil show. She also was vocalist for a vaudeville unit one season and while living in Lincoln was soloist with the Cathedral Choir.

### IN THE INFIRMARY

Charles Yount, Gering.  
Robert Chatt, Tekamah, Dismissed.  
Doris Swenson, Davenport.  
Julia Powers, Lincoln.

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### SYMPHONIC CONCERT BAND TO BEGIN WORK FOR WINTER SEASON

(Continued from Page 1.)  
port to Director Don Lentz as soon as possible, since work is expected to start the first of next week, with the first rehearsal being held during the first part of the week.

Organization of the band will be on a basis similar to that of the symphony orchestra, with membership expected to reach eighty by the time work is well under way.

### Two Winter Concerts.

Though plans for the concert series are at present somewhat tentative, Director Lentz states that the band will probably present at least two concerts during the winter season, with attention given entirely to symphonic works rather than to the lighter semi-classics which are so often associated with concert bands.

This activity should be of especial interest to those in the Teachers College especially, as it will provide valuable experience in ensemble playing. And, last but not least, there's the good old standby motive of playing just for the fun of it.

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### Smedley Butler Attacks War "Racket"; Scoffs at Idea of Intervention in China

(Continued from Page 1.)  
rines were in Panama when President Theodore Roosevelt sent a telegram in code to the commander. Deciphered, the wire read, "When the Hell is that revolution going to start? So we instigated another fake revolution and the next morning the United States recognized the 'new nation' even before it had a name. We stole that land! Where is the national honor involved in that situation?"

Butler vigorously criticized the nine power conference now in ses-

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