

Main changes to make the measure acceptable to this group were said to be a time limit, and assurances that it would be used only in labor situations. With Senate hearings on the bill scheduled to begin June 16, some support was developing for the Connally substitute which would simply enable the administration to take over strike-bound plants.

Warning by LaFollette

◆ The second type of opposition was expressed by Senator LaFollette (Prog., Wis.) who said the government will get less, not more, production if "there is any attempt to coerce labor." He questioned whether this was not a "measure in defense disguise which is really designed to curtail labor's rights."

Secretary Stimson said he had "no serious objection to imposing a two or four year time limit on the proposed powers" if that would help "the feelings of those who believe they are putting the crimps on a would-be dictator."

OIL AND POWER

Standard Oil President Tells Axis Connections

Secretary Ickes' warning that the Eastern seaboard may expect, "probably within a month," gasless Sundays" and a ban on pleasure driving "on any day" was front page news in all papers.

But two possible explanations of the threatened shortage were buried on financial pages.

One came from W. S. Farish, president of the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, who told stockholders profits of the company for the first six months of this year will run between \$75,000,000 and \$80,000,000.

Of the transportation bottleneck, Farish said: "The industry could do many things if it were permitted to work naturally and normally. But . . . it cannot get across railroad rights-of-way without the Federal government declaring an emergency and helping us. . . . We can't operate jointly without running afoul of the anti-trust laws. So before we can build a pipe-line we must have legislation in Washington to enable us to do it, and the anti-trust matter must be taken care of."

ALL-OUT

Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Sr., and her son, Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr., do their bit for the boys. Gems valued at \$300,000,000 were displayed on hosts and guests at the first public ball ever held in the 54 room, \$2,500,000 Vanderbilt mansion on Fifth Avenue.

Admission was \$20 per couple, which made it not so public. Proceeds benefitted the United Service Organizations for National Defense, Inc., and the soldiers of the 77th, General Vanderbilt's "own division."



International

Farish also showed his company's Axis connections and profits from fueling the Axis war machine. He said:

"This company's foreign operations are carried on principally by subsidiary or affiliated companies organized under the laws of and staffed almost entirely by the nationals of each separate country. Obviously these companies conform their policies to the interests and national economies of the country in question; otherwise they cease to exist. . .

"In the Far East, Standard of N. J. owns 50% interest in Standard Oil Vacuum Oil Co., domiciled in the Netherlands East Indies. About six months ago this affiliate joined with a Dutch British oil company . . . in a special arrangement, over a limited period, to sell to Japan additional supplies of oil and ordinary oil products . . . The agreement was negotiated with the full knowledge of the American, British and Netherlands East Indies Governments. . . .

"Subsidiaries of the Standard of N. J. also produce oil in England, in Germany (in partnership with a Dutch-British company); in Hungary, in Rumania, and in Italy."

In response to a question, Farish said if the company owed any money to Germany, it would be deposited in banks here to the German credit, for it would not be ethical for the company to violate its contract.

The Wall Street Journal asked editorially last week why 50 American

oil tankers were diverted to British government service.

It claimed that an excess of something like 500 tankers, exclusive of the 50 American ships, are under British control. And it inquired:

"What, it is reasonable to ask, are these 500 British tankers doing? Are they by any chance employed in serving the British export trade on a business-as-usual basis, while American oil companies have been asked to surrender ships serving American consumers who must satisfy their needs through the far more costly transportation of pipe lines and railroad tank cars and do with a greatly diminished supply. . . ?"

Beat Public Plant Move

Secretary Ickes' assertion that a "power shortage" might develop was challenged last week by Charles W. Kellogg, president of the Edison Electric Institute, and OPM's power division chief. Kellogg spoke at the Institute's ninth annual convention, attended by 2,000 representatives of the utilities, business and the federal government.

The utilities have long opposed extension of government-owned power plants. Last week, the Federal Power Commission reported that the Washington Water Power Co., privately-owned utility of Spokane, Wash., spent at least \$107,585.59 to successfully convince Spokane voters that a proposal for a municipally-owned power plant should be defeat-

ed. Voters paid for the campaign expenses, which entered into the calculations on which their electric light rates were based.

At the convention the modern kitchen bureau of the Edison Electric Institute awarded the Washington Water Power Co. a silver trophy for the greatest contribution to the development of domestic electric water heating in 1940.

PROFITS RISE

U. S. Drops Indictment Against du Pont Co.

News to cheer business last week included:

◆ Federal Reserve Bank of New York regular quarterly compilation of business profits, covering the reports of 441 industrial and mercantile corporations for the first three months of this year. These profits, in the aggregate, showed a gain of 16% over the first quarter of last year and were the highest of any initial quarterly period since 1929.

◆ Announcement by the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice that it has dropped two of six indictments returned against the nitrate and fertilizer industry on Dec. 4, and eliminated defendants in three of the others.

Indictments dropped involved the E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., and the Barrett Co. It was said the companies had agreed to abandon some of the wrongful practices outlined in the indictments.

◆ Indications that the federal government will supply virtually all the funds needed (an estimated billion dollars) to finance steel plant expansion needed to raise output by 10,000,000 tons.

HOUSING SHORTAGE

Worse Than at End of World War, Parley Told

The country is suffering from a housing shortage worse than the one at the close of World War I, the National Conference of Social Work, meeting in Atlantic City, was told last week. (See picture).

A joint report, prepared by Gerhard Becker, director of public welfare, Worcester, Mass., and John G. Leukhardt of the National Institute

of Health, represented the consensus of findings by housing and public health authorities throughout the country. It's conclusions were:

- ◆ The shortage is most acute at lower rent levels.
- ◆ At least 20% of all housing is unfit to live in.
- ◆ Illness and disability are in direct ratio to crowded living conditions, and lack of sanitary facilities, with communicable digestive diseases and home accidents increasing heavily as the rental rate or value of the home decreases.

FOUR FREEDOMS

Anti-Semitism in Congress; Kill Poll Tax, Court Asked

An anti-Semitic speech by Rep. John Rankin (D., Miss.) received national attention last week when Rep. Michael Edelstein (D., N. Y.) died of a heart attack after replying to it on the House floor.

Rep. Rankin's speech was of familiar stuff, "Wall Street and a little group of our international Jewish brethren. . . . Communists fomenting strikes. . . ." etc.

The Pirtle Case

A petition declaring the Tennessee poll tax illegal and unconstitutional was presented to the U. S. Supreme Court by Crampton Harris, Birmingham, Ala., attorney, and Lee Pressman, CIO general counsel, last week.

Acting on behalf of Harry Pirtle, they asked the court to set aside a lower court ruling upholding the law.

John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare are cooperating in the suit.

Bridges Testifies

As hearings in the deportation case of Harry Bridges, west coast CIO leader, continued, direct testimony and cross-examination of Bridges took the better part of seven days—a much longer time than was required during the deportation hearing of 1939.

Over and over again Bridges explained he was interested in people and organizations only from the standpoint of whether they were good union members, or good for the union. This was the same position he took at the 1939 hearing.

Prosecutor Albert del Guercio and Bridges parried thrusts, of which these are a fair sample:

Q. Don't you attribute your success to your support by the Communist party?

A. No, I attribute it more to the opposition of the Hearst papers.

Q. Is there any official of the Communist party on the Pacific coast you didn't meet or know?

A. Give me a list and I'll look them over and tell you—you know many more than I do.



Farm Security Administration Photo by Vachon

Three of six men who share one room in Radford, Va., boarding house. Housing conditions in Radford are typical of many defense boom-town areas. (see col. 1)