

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE

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HOUSE UNLIKELY TO RECESS; SENATE MAY

It appears now that the informal two-week recess planned by the House of Representatives may not go through, because of complications involving tax legislation. It does seem likely, however, that the Senate will recess, and a great many Senators will be home for a couple of weeks. Everything in last week's Letter in regard to Senators, therefore, stands. Chances are a good number of Representatives will go home too, at least for a week or so, vacation or no vacation.

Forty-Five To Go

On Poll-Tax Petition

Latest reports from Washington are that 173 signatures have been affixed to House Discharge Petition Three, to bring H. R. 7, the Anti-Poll Tax Bill of 1943, to the floor of the House for a vote. That makes forty-five more to go. Last year the real tough going started at the 190-signature mark. After that two signatures had to be obtained for every one of the twenty-eight remaining because every time another Congressman signed, one of the others took his name off--under pressure from the poll-tax forces.

What has to be understood very clearly is that all the lobbying in Washington, all the combining and manoeuvring to get signatures to the discharge petition--won't pass the anti-poll tax bill. It is a possibility that a majority of the members of the House should sign the petition; that the measure should come to the floor for a vote, and that it should there be defeated.

That is what may happen unless a very great pressure is exerted in a continuous manner, from the people back home. A Congressman may sign the petition, and then seeing that the people of his constituency are not very excited about it--or at least are not putting much pressure on him--may decide that when it comes to the vote he has more to gain by absenting himself to please a poll-taxer head of a House Committee, than by being present and voting for H. R. 7. This is only one of the reasons why, regardless of lobbying and brain-trusting in Washington, the campaign for H. R. 7, must be developed in each constituency, and kept going until H. R. 7, becomes law.

Anti-Lynch Bill

Discharge Petition

No reports are available as to the number of signatures which have been put on House Discharge Petition Five, to bring the Gavagan Anti-Lynch Bill to the floor of the House for a vote. Indications are it has not even progressed as rapidly as the petition on the Anti-Poll Tax Bill. The signature of YOUR OWN CONGRESSMAN is probably not on it. Now is the time to tell him about it.

HOBBS BILL FIGHT MOVES INTO SENATE

By a vote of 270 to 107, the House of Representatives last week passed the anti-labor Hobbs bill, H. R. 653.

The entire debate and vote was confused by several proposed amendments, none of which changed the anti-labor character of the bill, but which were so presented. The result was confusion among labor groups, some of which stopped fighting the bill to fight for the amendments. Out of that confusion came House passage.

It is to be hoped that there will be more clarity, and a more unified opposition, in the fight to prevent the bill from passing the Senate.

Wire your own two Senators today, urging defeat of H. R. 653, the Hobbs Anti-Labor Bill.

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Fish Moves to Nullify

Anti-Sedition Law

Latest move on behalf of the 34 indicted seditionists comes from Congressman Hamilton Fish, undoubtedly with the support of those who backed him in his fight against passage of the War Security Act (see last week's Legislative Letter). Fish's action is introduction of a bill, H. R. 2352, to nullify the sedition act under which the 34 were indicted. He does it by

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