

AGAIN, the chase is on — by A. B. Chapin



ONE-MAN RULE OF THE NRA WILL BE ABOLISHED SOON

General Johnson Is Expected To Head Executive Branch In Link With Legislative and Judicial. In Reorganization He Would Cooperate With Others In Task of Restoring Industry.

Washington, Sept. 15.—Public information coming this week from Hyde Park House leaves little doubt that President Roosevelt has set himself to the task of revising and reorganizing the National Recovery Administration.

As he redeems his assurances a marked change will have taken place in this agency within the next sixty days. He gave these assurances to Congressional leaders with whom he has lately been in touch, and who, although they exacted no promises, must have imparted to him their feeling of dread at the possibility of having to defend the present set-up at the next session.

The President has published but few details of the proposed revision. It is hardly probable that he has settled all of them. But it is sufficient at the present, for the country generally and for the Congressional "front men" in particular, that something is to be done. Of further satisfaction is the clear indication that General Johnson is to be harnessed to work in cooperation with others. In NRA vernacular, he is to be "put under a code."

Dispatches from the Summer White House state that the NRA will be made into a miniature American Government. It is to have executive, legislative and judicial divisions, with the limits and boundaries of each clearly defined.

Republican critics doubtless will seize upon this as a parody on the Constitution, the last insult of the New Deal to the noble document; but, stripped of its symbolism, it simply means that control of the NRA is to be divided, that administration, policy, determination and adjudication of disputes arising out of code enforcement are no longer to be the functions of one man.

If General Johnson remains with the organization, and it appears now that he will, he must do things that he has been unwilling or unable to do before, among them to share responsibility and to take more impersonal advice from those associated with him in the task of restoring American industry.

Effect of Criticism on Staff The Washington opinion is that President Roosevelt could not have selected a more propitious time to act.

Within the Recovery Administration here in Washington "pep" has given way to doldrums, and there is hardly one of the hundreds of employees who does not wonder what is to happen to him. It is difficult to imagine it otherwise when these men and women note every day the tenor of outside criticism for the agency.

The country's public appraisal of the NRA is digested every day and passed around the offices by a clipping bureau organized at the outset for that specific purpose. Aside from this outside attack are inside bickerings and suspicions breeding both upon petty jealousies and upon the lack of definite policy in dealing with the multiplicity of problems which the organization has taken unto itself.

The straightening out of this muddle is no one-man task. Even if it were, it would be least of all the task of a man who, however unintentionally, has contributed so much to the condition as has General Johnson. The President has been told this by some of his closest advisers, to whom his decision to divide the authorities and responsibilities of the administration came as inevitable.

Mr. Roosevelt is not expected to go so far as some of these advisers have suggested. He is not likely to satisfy those who are calling for General Johnson's scalp. He feels that the heavy-hitting hard-talking administrator has done a job of which his administration can well be proud. He has told friends that he knew of no other American who could have done what General Johnson has done.

Executive Post for Johnson He knew that mistakes in an undertaking of such magnitude were unavoidable, and he now appreciates that General Johnson has been willing not only to "take the rap" for his own blunders but also to act as a buffer for the White House against many of the "dead cats" hurled at New Deal policies.

The best opinion in Washington now is that the general will head one of the major divisions under the NRA's new "constitutional" government, probably the executive branch. If Mr. Roosevelt follows his present intentions the general's personality and influence will remain with the administration for some time, possibly until Congress at its next session develops a more permanent contact between the government and industry.

However far the responsibilities and duties may be divided under the plan, General Johnson's road can be no easy one. Even if his prerogatives are confined strictly to that of administration, his job at first will be largely one of rebuilding.

For whatever he can make of the new order, President Roosevelt feels that General Johnson deserves the chance, not from a sense of charity, but from the belief that his accomplishments far outweigh his mistakes and that the New Deal can ill afford to sacrifice such a driving force.

None of this is meant to infer that General Johnson has failed at his task. If he is culpable, it is for overdoing his job. From a year ago and before, among them to share responsibility and to take more impersonal advice from those associated with him in the task of restoring American industry.

It was only after he got somewhere that the weight of criticism changed. He could not organize to hold what he had accomplished. He branched out in every direction. He became confused in the mechanisms he himself set up.

One of the criticisms was that he could not stick to the policies he had announced. He could not or would not delegate responsibility and the amassing of responsibilities created present conditions. The NRA therefore became and remains now a personal organization of General Johnson.

Whether the task was too large or General Johnson made too many mistakes, the result is the same. It must be reorganized, and it is a tribute to the general that President Roosevelt has taken so largely of his reorganization.

Clearing of the Air Likely One of the elements in the situation is the strong part played by General Johnson's trusted assistant, Miss Frances M. Robinson, resulting in what may be termed pro-Robinson and anti-Robinson factions in some sections of the NRA.

This could not be put down as downright silly were Miss Robinson's influence in the organization not so real. Whether this has been for better or

worse is strictly a matter of opinion, but much of the criticism leveled at General Johnson has been, justly or unjustly, a reaction against Miss Robinson.

Alert, energetic and a hard worker, she has become General Johnson's very eyes and ears and sometimes his mouth. With her unswerving personal loyalty she has done more than any other except the general himself to make and keep the NRA a "Johnson" organization.

Furthermore, the general depends on her as his most trusted adviser. Hence it is not so silly for those who would perpetuate themselves and advance in their jobs to stand high in her estimation.

What disposition the reorganization will make of any of these matters is wholly in the lap of the gods. The revised agency will have only a limited life unless extended by Congress. The NRA automatically expires next June 16. President Roosevelt has announced repeatedly that the basic ideas will be perpetuated, but in what form is a question yet to be answered.

The answer may depend largely on the ability of the revised NRA to re-establish itself in popularity, not by any more "blue eagle" or publicity drives, but by cold, hard results translated into the numbers re-employed, the industries re-established on profitable bases and the increased buying power of the people.

Strikers Must Work For Aid

Applications To Be Investigated As All Other Cases Before Federal Relief Is Given.

Washington, Sept. 18.—Officials of the federal relief administration said today able-bodied textile strikers would have to work for relief payments like any other applicant for aid.

They reported applications from strikers had been received by relief organizations in every state affected by the textile walkout and that these applications were receiving exactly the same treatment accorded ordinary relief requests.

"The application of strikers is being investigated like all other cases to determine if actual need exists," explained one official in close touch with the situation.

"Where relief jobs are available which needy strikers can fill the applicants are being required to work for their relief budget like anybody else," he said.

Officials said protests of discrimination against strikers were due to misunderstanding.

It was related that a group of textile workers who had been on relief rolls prior to the strike wanted to be freed for fulltime picket duty but relief officials insisted they continue working 2 or 3 days a week.

Federal relief leaders asserted they did not anticipate a large increase in relief costs.

RUM CAR EXPOSED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

Laurens, Sept. 15.—Confiscation of a truck and 20 cases of whiskey was the cost of a traffic accident today when the machine overturned on the Princeton road near the Charlie Williams place, five miles west of the city. The driver proceeded toward Princeton in a car, it was reported. The rum-laden car is in possession of Sheriff Columbus L. Owens.

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