

SOLONS PLAN EXTRA SESSION

Roosevelt To Address Congress
Friday Night On State of the
Nation. Reason For Action
Not Apparent But Idea Is
From President.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Creating a new precedent in congressional history, senate and house leaders tonight arranged for an extraordinary session next Friday night to receive personally from President Roosevelt his annual message on the state of the union.

Never before in the annals of congress has a president delivered his opening message at night. Only once before, when President Wilson delivered his war message, has a chief executive appeared before a night session.

The reasons for the unusual opening day set-up were not immediately made clear. On Capitol Hill, where both majority and minority leaders met to discuss the arrangement in Vice-President Garner's office, it was understood the suggestion originated at the White House.

At the executive offices there was no comment other than the statement of a spokesman that Mr. Roosevelt would appear in person at the invitation of congressional leaders.

The extraordinary arrangements all but submerged other developments pointed toward the opening at noon Friday of the second session of the 74th congress.

At the capitol, Senator Byrd (D-Va.) let it be known he would move to put congress squarely on record for economy in government expenditures. He set about preparing a resolution calling for strict retrenchment in federal spending in the 1936-1937 fiscal year.

At the White House, the president devoted the last day of 1935 to preparation of his message to congress.

Because of the arrangements for a night meeting, there was wide speculation that it would contain some announcement of major importance. Whether it would deal with any or all of the foremost questions—including relief, neutrality and the bonus—was not revealed.

It was possible that neutrality might be made the subject of a special message, and that the meat of relief issue—the amount of money to be requested—might be left for his budget message next Monday.

The agreement on the night session was reached at a party lasting long after midnight in Garner's office, attended by Speaker Byrns, Senator McNary or Oregon, the minority leader, and Representative Snell, the house minority chief.

There was speculation that the Republicans were included in an effort to prevent a minority attempt to block the joint night meeting.

To permit such a joint meeting, Byrns said, it would be necessary to obtain unanimous consent in the house to recess after the noon convening until the desired hour for the meeting.

If that is denied a special rule must be brought out from the rules committee and passed by a two-thirds majority of the house.

On the senate side, a majority consent can complete the arrangement. In this connection, however, it was recalled that the late Senator Huey Long staged one of his almost-record filibusters in an effort to disarrange plans for a joint meeting of the senate and the house, to hear President Roosevelt deliver his message vetoing the Patman bonus bill last spring.

Byrns' colleague, the veteran Senator Glass of Virginia, meanwhile spent nearly two hours with the president at a luncheon conference going over the new budget and, according to Glass, a "wide range of subjects and personalities."

The "personalities" were widely assumed to have reference to the make-up of the new federal reserve board which under the law must be reorganized by Feb. 1.

Glass would not say whether this subject was discussed, but he did make the flat announcement there would be no banking legislation at the coming session.

Besides Glass, who also is expected to continue his advocacy of less spending by the government, the president went over his budget plans with Secretary McManthau and Daniel Bell, acting budget director.

County Farmer Sells Huge Porker

Laurens, Dec. 27.—J. Herman Power, member of the board of county commissioners, and one of the leading farmers of the Barksdale-Narnie school district, has marketed the champion porker of the season, the hog having tipped the scales at 726 pounds. The hog was bought by a local dealer.

Face New Year With High Hopes

Labor, Business and Government Spokesmen Look For Recovery Gains In 1936.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Spokesmen for government, business and organized labor—speaking generally in optimistic terms—tonight welcomed the New Year with suggestions for carrying forward in 1936 the recovery gains of 1935.

The expressions of optimism, however, were not unqualified. One business leader saw obstacles should government impose "burdens" on employers. A labor chieftain was concerned with the fate of new deal legislation in the supreme court.

Secretary Roper summarized the government outlook as follows:

"On the basis of the broad gains recorded in the economic and social life of the nation in 1935 and in view of the cumulative strength of the recovery forces, business and industry should now move forward courageously in the new year with long term programs, looking forward to sound and stable progress."

Harper Sibley, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States: "With all of the evidences of the new strength and vigor cumulative in their effects, we can depend upon continuation into the New Year of the improved conditions of recent months."

"How far these forces will carry us depends at present almost entirely upon the burdens which are imposed upon business."

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor:

"The indications are that the improvement in economic and industrial conditions which set in during the present year will continue during 1936."

Termining the next 12 months a "fateful year" for labor, Green said the supreme court's decisions on the constitutionality of the Wagner labor disputes act, the Guffey coal regulation law, and other labor legislation "will have a profound effect upon the future policies of labor."

Secretary Perkins: "Integrated activity and sound constructive cooperation among employers, wage earners and farmers to increase purchasing power, and with the government standing by to aid in accomplishing this objective, will consolidate the gains made since the low point of the depression and carry the United States into an era which will bring a greater degree of security to all our people."

Jesse H. Jones, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance corporation: "America is out of the depression right now. It is really a thing of the past. We have just the aftermath of the depression to clean up. We are behind in construction work in America, and I believe that building will be the big leader in 1936."

Sexton Resigns Relief Position

Effective Tuesday, the last day of the year, S. Boyd Sexton, who has been head of the various federal relief agencies in Laurens county since their inception in January, 1933, tendered his resignation to accept a position as traveling salesman with the Southern States Lumber company, a Laurens wholesale lumber concern.

Mr. Sexton first became work supervisor for Laurens county on Jan. 16, 1933, under the RFC. A month later he was promoted to director of relief and served in that capacity until August 1, 1933, when he was appointed county administrator under the ERA. He also served as county administrator of CWA during its life, after which he served as FERA administrator until August of the past year at which time the office was abolished. He continued as head of the county ERA as work supervisor until the administrative office was moved to Greenville and was holding that office at the time of his resignation. No announcement has been made as to whether a successor will be appointed in the county to Mr. Sexton.

Extend Penalty Date For Taxes

Columbia, Dec. 30.—Comptroller General A. J. Beattie announced Monday he was authorizing county treasurers in South Carolina to "collect taxes without penalty until January 11" because of weather conditions.

"Due to weather conditions," he explained, "many residents of the counties are not able to reach the county seats, and requests from some sections for extension have been received."

He said the extension was statewide.

A one per cent penalty for late payment of the 1935 levies would have been effective Wednesday.



Road Row Up Again Friday

Litigation Before Judges Affecting Removal of Commissioners By Governor.

Columbia, Dec. 29.—Proceedings in two state courts in connection with South Carolina's highway situation today were in prospect for this week.

Attorneys for three highway commissioners ordered removed from office by Governor Olin Johnston for alleged misconduct prepared appeals from the orders to be presented before three circuit court judges here Friday.

Attorney General John M. Daniel said he would petition the state supreme court "before the new year" for release of a portion of state highway funds tied up by injunction against their disbursement.

Daniel explained his petition, in behalf of a temporary road setup created by the legislature, would ask merely a modification of the injunction to release money to meet certain obligations, including bond interest due in the near future. Authorization by the legislature of loans from the state general fund made money available for current operating expenses.

Circuit Judges C. C. Featherstone of Greenwood, M. M. Mann of St. Matthews, and E. C. Dennis of Darlington, were to hear arguments on appeals of Charles O. Hearon of Spartanburg, highway commission chairman, and Commissioners E. L. Culler of Orangeburg and John C. Bethea of Dillon, from the executive orders of removal.

The governor said meanwhile he expected ouster proceedings against Chief Highway Commissioner Ben M. Sawyer and 10 members of the 14-man road board would be heard "within the near future."

He explained he was ready to begin the hearings "most any time" on rules for the 11 to show cause why they should not be removed on charges similar to those brought against Hearon, Culler and Bethea.

With the question of fixing a date left to attorneys, however, the hearings were not expected to get underway until after the circuit court proceedings here Friday.

Meanwhile, the temporary highway administration set up for a 60-day period, awaited federal approval of a proposed road and bridge construction program of more than \$1,500,000.

Lindberghs Now In England

Famed Family Lands In Port At Liverpool and Retires To Hotel. Will Visit Relatives.

Liverpool, England, Dec. 31.—The Charles A. Lindberghs arrived in England today maintaining the secrecy that had surrounded their entire voyage, but a relative said they were refugees from American crime.

The flier, his wife and three-year-old son Jon, while Liverpool celebrated the New Year, spent the eve in their suite at the Adelphi hotel.

They refused to see anyone from the moment they left the American Importer under the cover of a group of detectives and police.

But a member of the family of J. L. Morgan in Llandaff, Wales, said the Lindberghs would be guests there and would remain "for some time."

This spokesman said the Lindberghs came to England through fear that Jon would become the victim of kidnapers, as was his older brother, little Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr. Business had nothing to do with the journey, this source added.

The Morgan family expects the Lindberghs at Llandaff, in the quiet Welsh countryside, some time tomorrow. J. L. Morgan is the father of Aubrey Neil Morgan, husband of Mrs. Lindbergh's sister, the former Elizabeth Morrow, who died last year in California.

Col. Lindbergh, bareheaded and with little Jon in the crook of his right arm, hurried down the gangplank of the Importer after Mrs. Lindbergh while a dreary rain fell.

Laurens Men To Be Chamber's Guests

The January meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be held on the evening of January 14th, it has been announced by President D. C. Heustess.

Members of the Laurens Business League have been extended an invitation to be present as the chamber's guests on this occasion and have notified Mr. Heustess of their intention to attend en masse. The meeting, which is to be a get-together nature, promises to be a pleasant affair with an interesting program arranged.

State Campaign For 1936 Shapes

Factionalism Rises As Word "Johnstonite" Is Coined In the Road Controversy.

Columbia, Dec. 27.—South Carolina politics seethed in 1935 to a white heat almost unprecedented for an "off-year."

From the blaze, the word "Johnstonite" burned itself into the electoral consciousness that once reacted to "Tillmanite" and still stirs to "Bleasite."

Behind it was the story of a young governor who brought courts, militia, the legislature, and public opinion into play by one of the most vigorous exercises of executive action in half a century.

Factionalism in South Carolina was dead or dormant, to all evidences, when thirty-eight year old Olin D. Johnston was inaugurated as governor January 15.

His election the previous fall was facilitated by a combination of anti-Bleasite forces in his support, yet he had much sympathy that day from friends of the former governor and senator he defeated.

His inaugural demand for the resignation of the state highway commission as a body ushered in a period that rent the state—one element agreeing that the commission should be ousted and the other opposing the move or disagreeing with Johnston's methods.

The clash presented such questions as whether "the will of the people" as evidenced in Johnston's election on an anti-highway platform, might suspend the state constitution as interpreted by the South Carolina supreme court.

After the governor ousted the commission with the militia October 28, the supreme court held his use of troops unconstitutional, (the governor ousted the road board again by quasi-judicial proceedings following the decision and kept the troops on duty two weeks longer).

The removal proceedings were expected to gravitate before the court unless the 1936 legislature enacts a highway reorganization bill soon after convening January 11.

A special twelve-day session of the legislature was necessary this month to set up a temporary road board. The governor had threatened during the record-length regular session last spring to stump the state in the elections next summer against legislators opposing his policies, and the outcome of the 1936 session was expected to bear on his attitude.

He charged that the highway commission was the heart of a "ring" that dominated the state, and Senator Cotesworth P. Means, of Charleston, asserted the governor himself was dominated by a "ring."

Senator Harry Hughes of Oconee, in one of a series of legislative speeches against Johnston's stand, said it was the governor's intention to run for the United States senate in 1936 or 1938.

Johnston commented that he was occupied with "cleaning house" in South Carolina, but did not disavow senatorial ambitions while petitions and marches on the capital came in to attest to his strength.

United States Senator James F. Byrnes, of Spartanburg, was expected to run for reelection next summer in a campaign already stirring undercurrents, with his work in obtaining a \$10,000,000 federal allotment for the Santee-Cooper project as a point in his favor.

Candidates in the field against him included Colonel William Harlee, of Dillon, retired marine colonel, and former Mayor Thomas P. Stoney, of Charleston, both of whom tinged their talk with criticism of the New Deal Byrnes supports.

Wyndham M. Manning, of Sumter, a candidate for governor in 1934, announced during the year that he would seek that office in 1938 rather than run for the national senate next summer.

Col. L. Bleasie, former governor and senator, strongly hinted some time later that if he ran, it would be for the governorship against Manning, instead of for the senate.

Half the state senate and the entire house prepared for elections involving their seats next summer after passing a state liquor law, a workmen's compensation act, and other major bills during the 1935 session.

Schools Open Next Monday

The Clinton city schools will reopen next Monday morning after a two week's vacation for the Christmas holidays.

The Thornwell orphanage schools began work Tuesday following the holiday season.

Presbyterian college will resume class-room work Friday morning.

ROPER SOUNDS HOPEFUL NOTE

Commerce Secretary Sees Further Economic Gains Ahead In 1936. Cumulative Forces of Recovery Are Cited.

Washington, Dec. 29.—In a New Year's statement to the nation, Secretary Roper predicted today that the "broadening of the recovery process" in 1935 provides a basis "for further encouraging economic gains in 1936."

Noting specific business improvement, the commerce secretary said that "the fact that the general cumulative forces of recovery are gaining is even more important."

"Just as the forces of depression were cumulative in their effects, so the forces of recovery operate to expand activity in an ever-widening circle," he said.

"In dealing with the paramount problem of unemployment, we may take courage and renewed hope from the steady expansion of production and distribution in the past year."

"Perhaps the most striking conclusion warranted by a review of the developments of the year is that we now have a broader and firmer foundation than in the preceding years on which to build in 1936."

Reviewing the year, Roper said that production of consumers' goods was "above the relatively high level of 1934; there was further improvement in agriculture; some revival in the durable goods industries; widespread improvement in consumer purchasing based on increased employment; more equitable price relationships and a larger harvest; improved industrial earnings; an increase in the value of our foreign trade; and further improvements in the financial field, including a rising tendency in security markets and a gradual reopening of the domestic capital market to the flow of private funds."

He added: "A substantial increase in employment was effected during the year, with the major part of the gain accounted for in the manufacturing industries. There was also an encouraging expansion of employment in the construction industry, particularly in residential building. The latest monthly factory employment data available show an increase of 10 per cent in comparison with a year ago, factory payrolls being 25 per cent higher."

"Wages of factory workers generally were maintained at the level reached in 1934, when hourly rates were as high as in 1929."

"Among the more spectacular increases in retail sales in 1935 were the increase of about 20 per cent in sales of general merchandise in rural areas and an estimated increase of 40 per cent in dollar expenditures for new passenger automobiles."

"Although railway freight traffic lagged in the general recovery, by mid-October the carriers were able to report an increase in the cumulative total of loadings in comparison with 1934 and a corresponding decline in the deficits."

"It is believed that this tendency is now firmly underway."

"In this field, as of course in many others, we have formidable problems still before us, but we find here, nevertheless, an illustration of the tendency of the recovery movement to accelerate."

Christmas Lights Are Taken Down

The Christmas lights in the business section of the city were taken down yesterday by the water and light department after burning every night for the past two weeks to add to the beauty and impressiveness of the Christmas season. The decorations have been a source of pleasure to visitors as well as Clinton people and have been described by many as the loveliest in this entire section. Mayor Bailey has received several letters from visitors in regard to the lights, W. H. Keith and L. P. Hollis, of Greenville, writing that Clinton was the prettiest Christmas town they had seen during the holiday season.

City Licenses Due This Month

According to an ordinance appearing in last week's paper, the time for the payment of city business licenses for 1936 has been set on or before January 15th, with a penalty of 10 per cent applied if not paid by that date, and with February 15 set as final payment date without action being brought under Section 5 of ordinance.

The business fee for 1936 for forms of enterprises in the city be approximately the same as for past year, it was announced recently following passage by council of new license ordinance.

READERS, don't miss this treat . . .

PROMENADE DECK

By ISHBEL ROSS

—the story of people on a five-month world cruise, aboard a great ocean liner. Like "Grand Hotel," this story is a study of people in situations entertaining, romantic—and tragic—NOT A DULL MOMENT. It starts in this issue of THE CHRONICLE.

DON'T MISS THE OPENING CHAPTER ON
PAGE SEVEN.