

testimony it had taken concerning prohibition (except that received under pledge of secrecy) and all reports of experts who had examined various phases of the question for the commission. The information was requested on the ground that it was needed by the Senate in drafting legislation recommended by the commission. Yet it is fairly certain that a dry and pussyfooting Senate will not use the information for that purpose since it has defeated one important Wickersham recommendation seeking to liberalize the prohibition laws and has no disposition to tackle another which would remove some of their hypocrisy.

Nevertheless, Senator Tydings' authorship of the resolution is an indication that the information may be used advantageously. He will hardly be able to prove why the wet commissioners turned in a dry report but he will be able to turn a spotlight upon their contradictory position, thereby calling public attention to it more strongly than ever.

### ➤ In Brief

CHICAGO POLICE have raided Earl Carroll's *Sketch Book*. In these days of loose standards or no standards at all, it is encouraging to see Chicago maintaining its high moral tone. . . . Chicago has a sense of proportion. It doesn't bother its head about trivial offenses like murder and organized thug-gery, but when it comes to a really important matter like a questionable show it enforces the law to the hilt. . . . It appears that the new French tariff rates have seriously injured the French market for American automobiles. This is an intolerable situation and we suggest that a statement telling France what America thinks of her be issued at once by former-Senator Joe Grundy. . . . Applause does not necessarily signify complete approval. Members of the New York Legislature recently applauded a minister who prayed for fewer and better laws. Then, a few days later, a legislator introduced a bill which would compel motorists convicted of reckless driving to carry red plates on their cars bearing the letters "R. D." . . . "The government should keep out of the rum business," said the California opponent of liquor dispensaries. "The government should keep out of the rum business and increase its appropriation to finance the distribution of our grape juice guaranteed to develop a kick within sixty days."

## Cashing the Bonus

### An Editorial

IF AMERICANS needed anything more to disillusion them on the workings of democracy, as exemplified by the present Congress, the dramatic course of the cash bonus bill would supply it. In our issue of February 11, under the caption "More Pie for Veterans," we stressed the danger that Congress, disregarding the economic condition of the country, would hand out from one to three billions to war veterans, whether they needed it or not, and regardless of the question of individual disability, unemployment or need.

Events have justified this warning. Against the bitter opposition of the Secretary of the Treasury, backed by such obviously competent witnesses as Owen D. Young and Charles E. Mitchell of New York, and Mr. Stephenson of Indiana, President of the American Bankers Association, and in the face of widespread public objections, in and out of Congress, a cash grab, modified in amount from three billions to less than a billion, but otherwise wholly indefensible because totally unchanged in principle, has just been rushed through the House by an overwhelming vote, without time for debate. As we go to press it is being slammed through the Senate with all speed and no consideration, and by the time this appears, no doubt, is in Mr. Hoover's hands for action. That this action will probably be a veto does not alter matters in the slightest. For so great is the rush to secure American Legion votes in the next election that in case of a veto more than a two-thirds majority in both Houses now stands ready to re-pass the bill and make it law with or without Mr. Hoover's signature. So that apparently the thing is as good as done.

This indefensible grab has been engineered without warning and without explanation. Said Mr. Tilson, House Floor Leader, in his vain fight against the bill: "Few had ever read or heard of the proposed bill until it was suddenly, I might say precipitately, reported by the Ways and Means Committee at the very end of last week. The reported bill was not printed until Saturday. The hearings upon which the committee is supposed to have based its conclusions will not be available for examination until the very day the bill is to be acted upon. Only twenty minutes

on a side are allowed for debate. Of course no adequate legislation of a bill such as this can be attempted under such limitations. No one knows what additional obligations will be imposed by it. Every one is left in doubt as to what will be the effect on the treasury, its fiscal operations, and especially the effect upon financing this and other outstanding obligations of the government."

Outside of Congress, the Legion convention in Boston last fall declared against further bonus legislation by an overwhelming majority. From that day to this the unsuspecting public heard little to warn them that a new, sudden swooping of the dollar-grabbers was impending.

All the country knows now is that the Executive Committee of the Legion suddenly sponsored this new grab and that Congressional committees heard evidence of its baleful effects. Whereupon this evidence was disregarded—except that the raiders became frightened over the size of the loot and reduced their demands—and the bill promptly becomes law.

By its terms, every veteran in the country will be able to cash at once fifty per cent of his bonus, due in 1945, in the guise of a loan from the government. Why? Said Mr. Young in his vain effort to have the bill provide a fifty per cent loan to only such veterans as were unemployed or in distress: "No veteran has a right to ask the government to anticipate the debt payable in 1945, unless he is in distress. I don't think there will be any complaint, and, if there were, I should pay no attention to it."

"You might if you came up for reelection," retorted Mr. Garner of Texas.

"Well, I don't," was Mr. Young's reply.

And there you have it. The American Legion has votes. Congressmen must have them. Therefore, in these present hard times, a billion dollars is paid out to a special class in no way worse off than the rest of the citizens, seventy per cent of whom are in no distress whatever, and eighty per cent of whom as represented in convention said they did not want assistance from the government.

Such lack of integrity and patriotism in Washington smears the majority in

Congress with dishonor in the eyes of all decent Americans. The great warm heart of Congress can now be appraised for precisely what it is worth. To ascertain its exact value, it is necessary only to remember that Congress is now

about to appropriate a billion dollars for a special class while the appropriation for relief of all kinds, despite all the noise and fury, totals less than one-quarter of that amount. Such is government by minorities.—THE EDITORS.

## Backstage in Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WE REGRET that those merry men who envisage Senator Dwight W. Morrow as the Republicans' great wet hope in 1932 are doomed to be disappointed. It is not so much that Mr. Morrow could not make the presidential grade through his ability and personality, even though President Hoover's burly figure blocks the path, as it is that he quite obviously does not intend to and will not make the effort. All urging that he step out and show his wares, we learn, have been met with that pleasant, wistful smile of his which is one of his chief charms.

There are those of our fellows who have already passed judgment upon him as another senatorial "bust" and "false alarm." He has not patted them on the back, he has made no eloquent speeches and he has given no interviews. On the contrary, he has studiously avoided such senatorial displays, and declined to let the Washington correspondents or his well-meaning admirers publicize him into presidential proportions. We know of at least twoscore instances in which the Capital's leading writers have begged him to take advantage of their newspaper and magazine columns, but to all he has bowed politely and excused himself. He has not, to our mind, been cold, and he has lost no friends thereby; he has simply been canny—and himself.

"You may interview me," is his unflinching reply, "but I will not talk for publication."

Then, we hear, he proceeds to supply them with as keen and brilliant a discussion of men and measures—or of questions involving the nation's banking structure, and what's wrong with it—as any individual except, perhaps, Owen D. Young did before the Senate committee investigating that problem. With numerous others we marvelled at Mr. Morrow's restraint on the day Mr. Young helped himself to large hunks of publicity, presidential or private,

through financial advice to the Senators that Mr. Morrow, had he cared, might have given long ago.

Likewise, the New Jersey Senator is the despair of his friends inside the Senate. We understand that the members of the Senate's millionaire bloc—Reed of Pennsylvania, Phipps of Colorado, Metcalf of Rhode Island and Bingham of Connecticut—have implored him to deliver a speech or take part in debate, but Mr. Morrow only smiles, with, perhaps, some feeling of sorrow

to Mr. Borah. At social functions he exhibits the same earnestness and concentration to what is going on about him, devoting himself to the butterflies and amoebae as well as to the Alice Longworths. Undiscerning folk think this due to his desire to amass information anent legislation and similar problems against the day when he will need it. For our part, we think he is simply studying people—men rather than measures—against the day when he may occupy a more important rôle than he does now.

One of his millionaire companions tells us that he is a "resourceful little devil." From the same source we learn that "he cannot see two men in a dispute without letting his mind experiment on ways and means of bringing them together." Should he, as this appears to prophesy, exhibit the same ability as a conciliator that he showed at Broad and Wall Street, at Mexico City and St. James's Palace, we would not be surprised if he persuade "Bill" Borah to support Mr. Hoover in 1932, or make Mr. Brookhart think less harshly of bootleggers and their clients, including Walter Fahey, at whose most delightful party the Senator from Iowa smelled and squealed. There, we suggest, are people worthy of Mr. Morrow's persuasiveness.

Along with many others we credit the New Jerseyite with ambition which he has so far kept hidden. To our mind, he has his eyes on 1936 rather than 1932, and his legislative record indicates as much. Though he came to the Capital heralded as a liberal and progressive, whatever those labels may mean, he has been a safe and sound Republican member of the Old Guard. On water power, on the tariff, on drought relief, on national defense he has voted with such gallant gentlemen of the presidential guard as "Jim" Watson and Professor Fess.

No, Mr. Morrow will head no rebellious or riotous movement next year. Should Mr. Hoover conclude that he has absorbed enough punishment, the Senator would then be the Republican party's only hope as a pledge of returning prosperity. Otherwise, he must sit in his corner in the rear row as a symbol that, in assigning seats if in nothing else, the United States Senate takes no orders or oratory from Wall Street.

A. F. C.



Talburt in the N. Y. Telegram

About due for an explosion

for their misunderstanding of him and his motives. Nor do we believe, as so many do, that his shyness and deferment of the day of his maiden address is due to his dread of the hazing which envious and smaller members of the Senate propose to administer to him. He is, he explains, simply serving his apprenticeship.

Despite his Senate shyness, he shows signs of making his influence felt. We understand that he rarely leaves the Senate chamber during debate, listening as conscientiously to Mr. Brookhart as