

←CONTINUED→

Rankin

of protests from his colleagues. In this same battle, he took the floor one afternoon to read alone the Jewish names signed to letters protesting his stand, spelling out the names, sneeringly accenting them.

Rankin comes from Tupelo, Miss., where he is re-elected mechanically as the years pass by a small band of voters consisting of less than 5 per cent of the population.

He has fought the Wagner Act and the wage-hour law, because, he said, they would "destroy individual liberty," and attacked the War Labor Board's handling of the Montgomery Ward case as an attempt to "turn that great enterprise over to the labor agitators in the CIO."

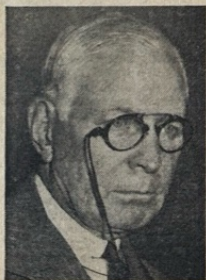
Only this year he managed, by shrewd parliamentary maneuvering, to save the Committee on Un-American Activities (formerly known as the Dies Committee) from dissolution, making it a permanent standing committee of nine members, "to stand guard for America."

Despite the widespread impression that Rankin is an outdated demagogue still fighting the Civil War, he cannot be dismissed as one, amusing or otherwise. His loud, offensive harangues seem to be inspired by the intuition of a hysteric, but he knows what he's doing.

'Good Deeds'

When not talking, he operates skillfully in Congressional surroundings and he takes pains to decorate his record with good deeds that look nice in print at first glance, such as his proposal to pension all widows, children, and dependent parents of World War veterans who have died from any cause whatsoever.

Another time he put through a bill calling for the issuance of a flag to "the nearest relatives of certain persons who die in service. Certainly," he said with feeling, "the family of every man who dies in action is entitled to a flag."



Sen. Elmer Thomas

A Washington story about the fight over price control in yesterday's PM incorrectly identified Sen. Elbert Thomas (D., Utah) as Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and sponsor of a crippling amendment to the Price Control Act. The Utah Senator was not involved in the story. Sen. Elmer Thomas (D., Okla.) is Committee Chairman and sponsor of the amendment.

Senate Group Votes To Keep OPA Controls

But a Bitter
Fight Is Expected on
Floor Next Week

By MILTON MURRAY
PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, May 30.—Approval by the Senate Banking Committee of a 12-month extension of price and rationing controls has dampened the fuse of the inflationary dynamite that pressure groups are attempting to set off here, but has left the dynamite alive, with explosive possibilities.

Whether the boom-and-bust still will take place is unpredictable, because the Committee victory was managed only after OPA Director Chester Bowles and War Stabilization



Davis

Director William H. Davis made personal pleas to batter down crippling amendments. The renewal bill for the Office of Price Administration will face a virulent fight on the floor of the Senate next week and a chaotic battle in the House of Representatives. Its friends were fearful of the outcome in the Senate despite the Committee victory.

Aligned against it are all the special interests who are crying that the war is over and private enterprise should be protected from Governmental interference.

Special Interests

Among these interests are meat packers, food processors, textile manufacturers, steel makers and some makers of civilian goods whose plants are being cleared of war orders and whose books are overflowing with an unprecedented demand for civilian production.

Pressure of these groups had brought deadlock in the subcommittee of the Banking and Currency Committee when Sen. Robert F. Wagner (D., N. Y.) asked Bowles and Davis to hurry to a special meeting of the full Committee to explain the facts of inflation.

The subcommittee looked considerably upon three dangerous amendments. The first would limit the extension of price and ration control to six months. OPA had asked for 18 months. This amendment would give consumers only until Jan. 1 to save up enough money to meet an unlimited boost in the cost of food, clothing, rent and other essentials of life.

A second amendment, pushed by Sen. Elmer Thomas (D., Okla.), would permit producers and manufacturers to abandon even their peace-time standards of operations and guarantee a profit on every item of production.

Plea by Bowles

Another amendment, sponsored by Sen. Robert A. Taft (R., Ohio), would remove all non-agricultural products from price control Jan. 1, 1946, permitting price boosts in all commodities except food.

"Fantastic" was the term used by Bowles in explaining to the Banking Committee the effect of the amendments. Davis, recently with



Sen. Robert F. Wagner

the War Labor Board, and familiar with the demands of labor for wage increases, was able to explain what the destruction of price ceilings would mean in the line of wage increases.

Despite these arguments, made behind closed doors, final vote of the Committee found only one Republican, Sen. Charles W. Tobey (R., N. H.), voting with the Democrats for approval. Tobey also opposed the destructive amendments.

Bowles spent a busy and relatively successful day yesterday in confronting critics of OPA. In addition to meeting with the Senate Committee, he spent an hour with Mayor La Guardia of New York City, whose latest suggestion for Government improvement was roughly, that price ceilings should be boosted to the level of black market prices and then there would not be any black market because everything would be legal.

La Guardia's Ideas

The New York Mayor also has an enthusiastic idea that rationing would be more effective if eaters-out were required to surrender ration points.

Both points were part of the discussion with Bowles. At the end of the talk, La Guardia told reporters: "It would be terrible if we let OPA go now, in spite of the mistakes that have been made. With all its faults, we must keep OPA."

The Mayor said he still favored one source of control for production and pricing of food, but complained that "Washington does not seem to think much of the idea."

La Guardia agreed that "you are bound to have trouble when food is short and people have lots of money." He said New York authorities are not getting the co-operation of consumers in breaking the black market that was given "a year or two ago."

"There are many who seem willing to pay the black market price," he said, "particularly in poultry."

Bowles told La Guardia that the poultry black market was caused by the extreme shortage resulting from the military services taking almost all the supply from the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia region from which New York normally draws its supplies.

OPA has found 10,000,000 additional pounds of meat flowing through Federally supervised packers as result of a crack down on farm and non-inspected slaughters, the Mayor was informed.