

Gov Br of Oh came
to Wash to speak at
the ^{Rep} Lin Dan dinner and
~~to~~ make a serious bid
for the Rep nomination
pres. The O. Gov met
with the pres and
~~gave~~ answered question
forthwith - He then held
a reception for Members
of Congress and made
~~a~~ a prepared speech
at the house which was
broadcast to the Nation.

The New chair of
the Sun Hall could
not with Democratic
cand to ~~plan~~ ~~their~~ discuss
plans for selecting a Dem
candidate.

Pres Roosevelt was
asked if ~~for~~ one of his
press conferences if he
would be a candidate
for a fourth Term. The
Pres laughed and said
that was one of those
things - Which was just
another way of saying nothing
about it.

So you can see ^{clearly} that
this is an ~~election~~ ^{election} year
and both sides are getting
ready for the show down.
Let us all hope that
the opinion of the people
on this question will not
be strong enough to hinder
the prosecution of the war
and thus prolong it. ~~That~~
~~just is not what happens~~

~~Hinder Sec of war~~
~~Patterson was reassuring~~
~~when he said publicly that~~
~~our forces were firmly~~
~~established on the beach head~~
~~below Rome. (1) There has~~
~~been a lot of anxiety here~~
~~over that situation, our~~
~~situation on the beach head below~~
~~Rome. And, though, it was~~
~~very encouraging to hear the~~
~~Sec of war Patterson say~~
~~that our forces were~~
~~firmly established there.~~

Good Morning, Friends:

The developments in Washington during the week ending yesterday *make a patch work of cautioning, in adequacy + anxiety.*
~~were five-fold:~~ 1. The fight over the soldier vote bill; 2. *continues* The ~~Long~~ *Long* ~~passage of the tax bill by Congress;~~ 3. ~~The passage of an appro-~~ *an inadequate, meanwhile the house passed*
~~priation bill by the House;~~ *in a hurry. Then,* ~~a partisan political~~ *was on.* ~~moves;~~ *At the same*
~~and 5. War~~ *time our troops in Italy were slowly pressed.*
~~developments. Let's take them up in their order.~~

The Senate passed the soldiers vote bill providing a uniform Federal ballot by a very close vote. There was bitter debate and *fr* wrangled feelings over the question. Opposition to the *ad* bill, ~~which was supported by the~~
~~Administration,~~ came from a combination of a majority of the Republican and Southern Democrat Senators. The House had previously defeated the Administration's plan for a uniform Federal ballot and had passed a bill recommending that the state provide state ballots. So, instead of ending the fight, one might say it has started all over again. The bills, ~~which passed~~
~~the two houses,~~ differ very widely and conferees representing the House and *as a com to try to compromise the differences.*
the Senate have been appointed. A majority of the conferees representing the Senate will favor a uniform Federal ballot, while a majority of the conferees representing the House are opposed to a uniform federal ballot and are in favor of trying to send the ordinary state ballot. So, there is a *strong* likelihood that the conferees may not be able to agree. In any event, both the House and the Senate will have to vote upon whatever recommendation comes from the conference committee, because before any bill can pass Congress, it must pass both the House and the Senate in identical form. As I see it

any soldier's vote bill that comes out of this conference committee without a provision for a uniform federal ballot, at least for the men who are serving overseas, would be an advertisement to the servicemen everywhere that a large percentage of them will have no practical opportunity of casting their vote. Of course, other members of Congress feel very differently. Many say that if the War ~~Department~~ and Navy Departments will just turn their hand to it, the ordinary state and local ballots can be carried to the servicemen everywhere and brought back in time to be voted in the election. This would put a very heavy burden upon our transportation system. For instance, the list of candidates in the State of New York, which was prepared by the New York State War Ballot Commission, is a book of 900 ~~pages~~ printed pages, bigger than ~~any~~ a mail order catalog. Let us say this ballot is to be sent to half ^a million soldiers overseas. Think of the number of ^{planes or} ships it would take, not only to carry ^{them} it over but to bring ^{them} it back.

But more than that, the soldiers must first send in an application for a ^{an} state ballot. So, that's an additional mailing. And another thing, how would this ballot be printed in time to be mailed to the soldiers, voted and returned to his home precinct before the election is over. ^{when} This question ~~arises because of~~ the candidates of the respective parties are ^{not} determined ^{until} the State primaries, ^{or over} some of which are held as late as September, and one or two, I think, ~~are held~~ in October.

These are just some of the reasons why many members of the House and Senate and many people over the country have felt that the use of a uniform federal ballot, sent in the same form to all places where troops are concentrated ~~for the only feasible~~ is the only feasible method of giving a practical opportunity to servicemen and women, especially overseas, to vote. 7 All that this would entail is that the Federal Government would prepare and distribute ^{to the soldiers} /by airmail, this simplified uniform ballot for Federal offices; then collect the executed ballots; bring them back to this country; and ~~then~~ turn them over to the election officials of the respective states.

~~the~~ Congress should not say to the men and women in the armed forces that ~~they~~ ^{it is} are unwilling to ~~n~~ take this minimum step to protect their right and opportunity to vote in the important elections this fall. There is the constitutional question, of course. But the Supreme Court has repeatedly said that the war powers inherent in the Congress and the National government are very broad.

In its most recent interpretation of war powers, the supreme court said that the war powers were broad enough to wage war successfully and that this power did not stop with repulsing the enemy on the battle field but that it went far enough to protect members of the armed forces from injury. Congress has moved to protect members of the armed forces from civil injury, and it should protect them from the loss of their franchise and the opportunity of exercising it. It is easier to say this, though, than it is for Congress to do it, as has been demonstrated by the weeks of wrangling and fighting

over this issue. As I said on a previous Sunday morning, this question has become a ^{hard} political issue, which it should never have been. As a result of this, the outlook for final passage of a bill providing a practical opportunity for a great majority of our servicemen to vote is still dark.

The House and Senate conferees finally reached an agreement on the controversial provisions of a tax bill. This conference report was adopted by both the House and the Senate and sent to the President's desk, but not before 101 votes were cast against it in the House as a manner of protest. There is some speculation that the President will veto the bill. It purported to raise about two billion dollars. But it had other features in it which very nearly nullified this alledged increase in taxes. So, as a revenue raising measure, it is a puny effort in war-time taxation.

Another objection which many entertained to it was that it let down some bars in the renegotiation law, which opens the way for more war profiteering.

Along side this weak tax bill, the House passed a big appropriation bill. An economy gesture was made by the Republicans who offered amendments to reduce the size of the appropriation by a small amount. This was defeated by only a one-vote margin, but even had the reduction been adopted, it was inconsequential and, at best, was intended only as a gesture toward economy.