

# TESTING THE ELECTION RESULTS

Strength of Anti-Administration Coalition Demonstrated in House

## Strains in Mr. Roosevelt's relations with legislators and with leaders abroad

Troubles are piling up for President Roosevelt. The same old group with which he has fought for almost a decade is moving back into power in the House of Representatives. New strains are evident in his relationship with Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin. And the time is close at hand when the ingenuity of the President will be tested in both spheres.

Mr. Roosevelt would like to have good working relations both with Congress and with his foreign allies. The Allies still have to win the war. With the leaders of Great Britain and Russia, Mr. Roosevelt must work out the terms of the peace and the international pattern for the future. And he must depend upon the new Congress for the legislation to implement that peace pattern abroad and to shape the domestic economy at home.

**A Congress rampant.** But hardly had Speaker Rayburn rapped the new House into session with his gavel before the election results were put to the test there. The Democrats had just installed 30 new members. The Republicans had lost almost an equivalent number. There was hope in the Administration that these changes might have broken the old coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats, which so often in the past had stood in the way of presidential wishes.

On the test, the coalition showed itself strong enough to keep its grip over the House. Seventy Democrats, mostly from the South, broke away from the Administration and voted with 137 Republicans. But 34 Republicans stepped outside their own party lines to vote with Administration supporters. The final vote showed 207 to 186 to reinstate as a permanent House committee the old Dies investigating committee—minus its former chairman, Martin Dies, of Texas, who did not run for re-election.

The vote clearly showed the barrier that will stand in the way of many of the

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things that Mr. Roosevelt will ask of Congress. Certain phases of his social program are anathema to some of the leaders of the Southern bloc. And the presidential proposal to enact a permanent Fair Employment Practices agency is exactly the type of legislation that Representative Rankin, of Mississippi, a leader of the Southern anti-Administration Democrats, does not want. On such a measure, however, the President might expect more support from Republicans.

In the Senate, presidential hopes were raised for a Foreign Relations Committee that would be friendly to a United Nations agency to preserve the peace. Two Republican opponents of presidential foreign policies—Senators Davis, of Pennsylvania, and Nye, of North Dakota—went off the Committee. One friend of Administration foreign policies, Senator Bridges, of New Hampshire, and one enemy, Senator Wiley, of Wisconsin, came on from the Republican side, a net gain of one friend for the Administration from the Republicans. Democratic changes in the membership are likely to give the Administration even more strength.

**Foreign problems.** But before any plan for an agency to keep the peace can be sent to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the war must be won, and the details of the agency must be worked out. The heads of the three principal world powers must agree upon those details. From all three, there now are clear signs by word and deed that differences have developed.

Sharp criticism of America is emanating from England. And neither the United States nor Great Britain is dealing with the Polish Government that is being sponsored by the Russians. The agenda for the conference of Mr. Roosevelt, Mr. Churchill and Mr. Stalin, now being worked out, contains a growing list of problems, ranging from war strategy to the political troubles of liberated countries of Europe.

**At his press conference,** Mr. Roosevelt is throwing little light upon this developing situation. He acknowledges that important differences have developed, but indicates that these differences grow out of the application of principles—upon which all three agree—to specific problems. The date for the next meeting is being fixed. It probably will be in late January, but details are secret.

The President said the United



States and Great Britain have agreed upon a program for feeding Italy, and that more food now is going into that country. On another phase of British-American discussions, Mr. Roosevelt said the transfer of the American First and Ninth armies to the command of British Field Marshal Montgomery does not mean that the latter is becoming a deputy commander to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, a step which the British have been urging.

**Busy week.** In spite of the holidays, Mr. Roosevelt turned out a great volume of work. He considered, but did not decide, whether to offer Vice President Wallace a post in his Administration. The Vice President will be without a job after January 20. The President did take care of several others who wanted new jobs. Former Senator Gillette, of Iowa, was named a member of the Surplus Property Disposal Board. And Paul Porter, who was publicity director of the Democratic National Committee during the fourth-term campaign, was nominated for the Federal Communications Commission.