

Industrial Truce to Fore as Election Nears

Employers and Labor Leaders Respond to President's Proposal; Merriam-Sinclair Battle Outstanding in National Political Scene

THE proposal of a "trial period of industrial peace," advanced by President Roosevelt in his "fireside" radio speech of September 30, gathered momentum last week. Business men and labor leaders issued statements approving it in principle and planned conferences with the President to discuss it in detail. Editors gradually settled upon it as the most important part of the speech and their comments on it multiplied.

Last week, also, advocates and opponents of the New Deal prepared to see other Roosevelt policies tested in three separate ways. It is expected that the United States Supreme Court will approve or disapprove parts of the New Deal in its session which opened on October 1. Again, Iowa farmers went to the polls during the week to vote in a non-binding referendum, sponsored by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, on the question, "Do you favor an adjustment program dealing with corn and hogs in 1935?" Finally, the New Deal will be tested as a whole, and decisively, in the national election of November 6.

The preelection campaign, warming up in other States, continued at fever heat in California, where Upton Sinclair, ex-Socialist and Democratic candidate for Governor, is running against Frank F. Merriam, conservative Republican incumbent.

Governor Merriam is calling on his supporters to fight against "radicalism and Socialism."

"There is no other issue before us," he says.

He dismisses Mr. Sinclair's End Poverty In California proposals as "flimsy and unreal . . . utterly misguided . . . completely impossible of realization . . . dangerously unsafe and destructive." The Sinclair program, says Governor Merriam, "contemplates a new and burdensome superstructure of tax-



Wide World
William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor (left); Frank F. Merriam, Republican Governor of California (center),



Wide World
and Senator Gerald P. Nye, of North Dakota, Chairman of committee investigating munitions traffic, who is making a speaking-tour on the subject

tion upon a people already hard-pressed by an endless chain of local, State, and Federal taxes."

Mr. Sinclair, he adds, has made promises which he can not carry out if elected, "but the mere attempt to put into practise many of the theories and untried proposals advanced by radical and Socialistic propagandists will add to our already heavy deficit in State finances and will invite bankruptcy for many of California's important industries."

He points proudly to the special session of the California Legislature which he called and through which he forced measures dealing with old-age pensions, assistance for the unemployed and relief for certain classes of debtors. Party lines must

be swept aside in the interest of alleviating human suffering, he says. He refuses to engage in a "contest of promises which we know, even as they are uttered, can not be fulfilled, or, if possibly realized, would entail greater injustice, greater suffering, and greater confusion than now exists," but he does pledge himself to "forward reforms in government, which are to be reflected in greater efficiency and in absolute unswerving economy."

Out of California last week came a scary story which some of Mr. Merriam's supporters called grave and important and some of Mr. Sinclair's supporters called a silly bogey raised for political purposes.

It told of an alleged flight of capital from California, which was supposed to be attributable to Mr. Sinclair's candidacy and to be reflected in a declining price for California securities, notably State, county, and city bonds.

Adding still another voice to the loud California chorus, George Creel, Mr. Sinclair's unsuccessful opponent for the nomination, denied that the Democratic State platform on which the latter is running embodies his EPIC plan. "Instead of being a Sinclair platform, our State platform is one upon which any Democrat can stand," Mr. Creel declared last week.

As for the President's peace proposal, it will be recalled that in his radio speech he asked employers and employees to "lay aside the weapons common to industrial war"—strikes, lockouts and so on—for a time and meanwhile to adjust their conflicts either by agreement or by the mediation or arbitration of State or Federal agencies.

The United Textile Workers union was the first important one to accept the proposal formally. In a letter to the President, Francis J. Gorman, vice-president



Time for a Non-Stop Flight

—Byck in the Brooklyn Times-Union



Steer Clear, Sailor!

—Burck in the New York Daily Worker