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THE DAILY WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

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and "More Merry-Go-Round".

Borah Ready to Quit Chairmanship in Progressive
Plan to Thrust Full Responsibility on Democrats
At Short Session -- Only Farley, Cohen and Byrd
So Far Certain of Places in Roosevelt Cabinet

WASHINGTON--Although they stand to lose a half dozen major Senate committee chairmanships by the change, the Progressives have notified both Republican and Democratic leaders that they will insist that the Democrats assume full control of Congress at the forthcoming short session of Congress. Even Senator William E. Borah, who nominally remained regular, although he did nothing to help President Hoover, and who as Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has the most important chairmanship to lose, has joined with the Progressives in their demand that the Democrats take over command of the legislative branch.

The Progressive demand was formulated by Senators La Follette, Norris, and Cutting, who bolted Hoover for Roosevelt. They put the matter up to the entire Progressive group, including such "fellow travelers" as Borah and Couzens, and all agreed to the plan. Borah at first was cool to the suggestion, but when the Progressives indicated that they did not care whether he joined with them Borah dropped his objections.

Senator McNary, assistant Republican floor leader, and in line for full command after Senator Watson retires in March, is eager for the Progressives to put their plan through. McNary sees the situation as confronting the Democrats with "plenty of trouble", and being a good Republican is getting much pleasure out of the prospect.

Stories to the effect that the Democrats may offer the Republican Insurgents some committee chairmanships because of their support in the election are without foundation. Senator Joe Robinson, and Senator Pat Harrison, Democratic floor leaders, couldn't deliver on such a plan even if they wanted to. There are more veteran Democratic senators in line for the big chairmanships than there are places for them. These senators have been waiting a long time to get these important places and they are insisting on receiving what is due them by seniority.

The transfer of congressional control revolves about the senatorial situation. The Democrats rule in the House. The Republicans have a paper majority of one in the Senate up to March 4. If the Progressives were willing the Republicans could organize the Senate and retain their chairmanships for the three months duration of the short session. But the Progressives take the position that the landslide defeat of the Republican regime manifested the popular desire for an immediate change.

The demand of the Progressives is prompted by two other motives. These are of a personal and behind-the-scenes import, and are not referred to when they discuss the question of immediate Democratic leadership.

For years the Progressives pressed for the enactment of the Norris "lame duck" amendment. In the last session of Congress, with the aid of the Democratic controlled House, they finally succeeded in forcing the passage of the measure and sending it to the states for ratification. Seventeen already have approved it, and its final acceptance is considered certain within a few months after the New Year when forty-four state legislatures convene. The short session of Congress that meets in December will unquestionably be the last of its kind.

Because of their long advocacy of the abolishing of the short session the Progressives feel that the only consistent thing for them to do, particularly in view of the sweeping Democratic victory, is to turn over the full congressional power to the Democrats.

The second personal motive prompting the Progressives is their desire to force the Democrats to immediate action. With the Republicans retaining nominal control of the Senate the Democrats could say ----and with considerable justice----that not having full command of the congressional machinery they are unable to put forward a program of their own.

In the presidential campaign the Democrats pledged themselves to a comprehensive liberal program. On the basis of these promises the Progressives supported both their national and state tickets. They now demand that the Democrats make good.

Far in the background, but of vital importance in this phase of the Progressives' position, is the ever-present hope among them of creating a third party. They went down the line for Roosevelt this year, because of their bitter hostility to President Hoover and the liberal assurances of the Democratic standard bearer. They now insist that the latter "do his stuff". If he doesn't do it to their liking, some of these Progressive champions are prepared to bolt both parties in 1936 and set up a ticket of their own.

The Democratic leaders of Congress have as yet formulated no party policy for the short session, but they will not resist a Progressive drive to turn over congressional control to them. The matter will be thrashed out among them, along with other policy questions, when they meet President-elect Roosevelt in a party council in Warm Springs, Georgia, late this month.

James A. Farley, Democratic National Chairman, former Governor Harry Byrd, of Virginia, and Senator John S. Cohen, of Georgia, are positively listed by President-elect Roosevelt for places in his cabinet if they will accept such appointments. Farley is Roosevelt's choice for Postmaster General, Cohen for Secretary of the Navy, and Byrd is being considered for two places, as head of the Commerce Department and as Secretary of Agriculture. Roosevelt leans to the latter place for Byrd, because he is a "dirt farmer", owning and operating extensive orchard properties in Virginia. Beyond these three men Roosevelt HAS NOT made up his mind about any other cabinet selections. This information comes from the most intimate Roosevelt quarter.

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