HOUSE CUTS 'FRILLS,' PASSES OCD BILL WITHOUT ROLL-CALL

$100,000,000 Measure, Shorn of Funds for Art and Dancers, Is Sent to the Senate

FULL INQUIRY IS PROMISED

Critics Assured of Hearing, While Mrs. Roosevelt Offers to Testify

By C. P. TRUSSELL

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—Still revolting against dancers' arts and their so-called frills as parts of the national civilian defense program, the House of Representatives today stood formally and firmly behind the restrictions it imposed tentatively last Friday upon the use of the $100,000,000 it was appropriating for the OCD.

So decisive was the voice vote that retained in the money measure an amendment prohibiting expenditures for instructions in physical fitness by dancers, fan dancers, street or theater shows that no member was forced to go on the record. The revolt, the oral conflict disclosed, had spread deeply into Administration strongholds.

Although both majority and minority leaders had summoned all absentees back to town for a threatened roll-call showdown, the roll was not called on this highly controverted issue. The House seemed much relieved.

Donald Duck Voted Out

However, the House went on record to reach beyond the OCD and the quarrel which has involved Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, assistant director of OCD; Miss Mayris Chaney, her dancer protégée, and Melvyn Douglas, movie star, and condemned the Treasury Department for what it viewed as a frill or a "furbelow."

By a roll-call vote of 26 to 11 the House refused to reimburse the Treasury for the $80,000 it already has paid out for a movie cartoon, now showing to the public, in which Donald Duck capers to boost the morale of the wartime taxpayer.

The House battle was as heated as that which was suspended on Friday, through abrupt adjournment, supposedly for a week-end cooling-off period. The interval, instead, appeared to have been only a period of preparation for further battle.

Through the afternoon the chamber echoed with charge and counter charge, most of them of a highly personal character, and with freshly coined war cries such as "Billions for defense, but not one cent for frivolities" and "Not a buck for Donald Duck."

First Lady Criticized

Mrs. Roosevelt figured largely in the debate, directly and by somewhat pointed indirection. Repeatedly, however, she received high praise for patriotism and perseverance as well as criticism for her activities in the OCD.

At one point of the debate, only the back stage intercession of House leaders prevented the voicing of a suggestion from the floor, by a Democrat and member of the Appropriations Committee, that she resign her assistant directorate of OCD "and take her friends with her."

However, the House was told by leaders who fought the restrictive amendments, that the action regarding OCD physical fitness and theatrical activities was "entirely meaningless." Not a dime of the $100,000,000 being appropriated, said Representative Woodrum of Virginia, could be used, any way, to pay Miss Chaney or Mr. Douglas.

Foes of frills in civilian defense refused to concede that the result was meaningless.

"The intention of the amendment," said Representative Leland M. Ford, of California, its sponsor, "was to establish a principle here to show that we are not in favor of that type of boondoggling, and to see that in the future these funds were not spent for any such purposes."

This principle, he held, had been set Friday and confirmed today.

But, Representative Cannon, of Missouri, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, protested that the fight on OCD activities had been waged by giving emphasis to the appointment to high

"In the C[illegible] of [illegible] a few persons.

"Five per cent of [illegible] shells," he shouted with martime metaphor, "are duds. We cannot expect 100 per cent perfection.

"The enemy is closing in on us on Bataan and at Singapore, and we talk about dancers!"

Still protesting the imposition of restrictions in a bill which did not carry funds for payment of salaries or expenses of officers and employes, Mr. Woodrum, ranking majority member of the Appropriations body, gave comfort as well as advice to those who fought the so-called frills appointments and programs.

"I myself, doubt the wisdom of many of the things that appear to be going on in the OCD," he said, "and I can assure you that when these matters come before the Appropriations Committee for any appropriation of funds for such purposes, the committee will certainly go into it carefully. It will be appropriate and in order to vote upon these matters as they come up.

Full Inquiry Promised

"On the face of the record, as it stands, I think there is a great deal in the OCD that looks frivolous and not in tune or in keeping with the serious business at hand, but there is an orderly way to proceed in such things.

"It is not going to be put off. In a few days, or in a few weeks at most, the OCD will be before the Congress for their administrative expenses. Then is the time we should take care of the situation; see what should be done and apply the remedy."

The House, however, appeared to be unwilling to wait for more formal and parliamentary proceedings. Mr. Douglas, who yesterday gave assurances in a statement that he was working, not at $8,000 a year, but without compensation, filled roles of both hero and villian in debate. In comparison, little was said about Miss Chaney, but what had been put into the record on Friday had registered repercussions elsewhere.

Miss Sally Rand, the fan dancer, telegraphed Representative Bennett of Missouri, from Pocatello, Idaho, offering her services to the OCD at $25,000 a year, or "gratis if the budget won't stand it."

Mr. Bennett last week had observed in debate that if Miss Chaney was worth $4,600 a year Miss Rand "easily is worth $25,000."

"Will change name of [illegible] dance," Miss Rand offered, "to 'Nude Deal.'"

Mr. Bennett put the proposal [illegible] the record.

Calls It a "Burlesque Show"

Representative Nichols of Oklahoma, himself a former actor, denounced the House for "putting [illegible] a burlesque show."

"For the time being," retorted Representative Cox of Georgia, "boondogglers and fancy uplifters should stand aside."

"If the actor wants to fight the Japs," said Mr. Cox, "let him grab up a gun. If we want some one to teach children how to behave in times of stress, I recommend a country housewife in preference to a night club entertainer."

"There was a fellow in Rome," said Representative Taber of New York, ranking minority Appropriations Committeeman, "who fiddled while Rome burned. Are we to fiddle while the United States burns? Let us stick to the purposes for which the OCD was created, to protect the civilian populations of this country from air raids. There are other agencies that provide for the entertainment of the men in the service."

Mr. Taber planned to carry the fight further. He would write a letter, he said, to Lindsay Warren, controller general, asking that "glamorous and frivolous" OCD employes be taken off the government payrolls on the ground that the agency had no legal authority under the act creating it for that employment.

Senate Joins in Debate

The Senate, meanwhile, took notice of the House fight, and debate broke out there, too.

Senator Downey of California, defending Mr. Douglas against criticism of his selection as head of the OCD's arts division, declared the movie star was "sacrificing a fabulous income" to serve for civilian refense.

"Mr. Douglas," he said, "left away from home to join our forces in the last World War. He is ready to serve in this one wherever he is called, and will be registered on the sixteenth of this month."

This is a clipping from page 1 of the New York Times for FEB 10 1942

Clipped at the Seat of Government.

166-8100-56-A