

# SIDELINES

By S. M. Miner

FOLLOWING THE lull in national political activities, which came after the national election and during the beginning of the upswing in recovery, has come the reconvening of Congress and the Presidential message at a time when things are once more "beginning to happen." The start of recovery, possibilities of the return of the N.R.A., labor difficulties, and the foreign situation are all bounding into "front page" discussion.

IT WILL NOT be attempted to cover the foreign problem—our connections with the Spanish strife—in this article. However, it is interesting to note some of the broad ramifications of the question. First, there is the possibility of a second World War. How can we keep ourselves from becoming embroiled in such a strife as this bodes well to become? "Mind our own business" is a good watch-word, but can we follow it? And besides the physical problems of such a conflict, there are economic questions which we are even now bumping up against, and which will have to be answered no matter how much or how little further the difficulty progresses. Foreign exports as well as their protection, international trade agreements, who will be declared open and who closed to foreign trading, currency stabilization, international recruiting of men, and international business aspects—all these and many more will have to be considered in the future.

AND THEN comes the problem of national recovery. All through President Roosevelt's message to Congress the note was sounded that recovery does not mark "finis" to the problems of the Administration. Instead, the old problems still need answering or rejuvenation of the old answers, and new problems of fully as deep an importance are now at hand. This attitude should certainly allay the fears of many—and the hopes of many others—that the government intends to ease up on its progressive program of regulation.

AS FAR AS his definite statements indicate, there are many actions which require immediate attention. These include the extension of a vast majority of past authorizations, neutrality regulations, expansion of authorizations in the direction of the old N.R.A. All of these will have the tendency of drawing a great amount of cross interest between government and industry in the next few months.

PROBABLY THE most vexing problem at the present time is the labor situation, with unemployment in general and the labor strikes in particular. The Seaman's Strike, which has been discussed in a previous article, seems to have settled down into a slow, evenly-mitigating hold-out. Day by day there are small concessions from either side, but still the strike wages on. However, into the limelight now has come the Glass strike and finally the General Motors strike. This last is one of the largest the country has seen for some time, and bids fair to compare with some of the strikes which have come down in history. Its far-reaching effects are only now beginning to be felt, as shown by the decline in all of the allied and contributing industries, which for the automobile industry are legion.

EACH SIDE claims that the other is masking the principal issues and then declares its own opinion as to the real issues; and both of them hedge and "beat around the bush" anyhow. General Motors claims that the strikers' demands for hours and pay are only masks to cover up the real fact that the union wants a closed shop with all the workers paying tribute to hold their jobs. On the other hand, the union claims that General Motors' statement or an attempt to keep an open and fair shop is only a mask for the attempt to keep the workers as an unorganized and weak group. And both are right in their claims and in their disparaging arguments, but both are avoiding the really fundamental and underlying principle of the conflict.

GENERAL MOTORS' employee

## Tau Beta Pi Initiates Eleven New Members

Tau Beta Pi, national engineering honorary association, held its fall initiation on Thursday, December 17, 1936, in the Theta Xi rooms. Those initiated from the senior class were D. N. Brissman, A. Goldsmith, J. A. Haase, M. S. Herz, R. G. Liebmann, P. L. G. Moore, J. J. Penn, P. R. Schultz, J. C. Stern and S. Taradash. H. Bodnar of the junior class was also initiated. R. Kliphardt of the junior class was also to be initiated but was prevented from participating in the festivities as a result of illness. He will, however, be initiated as soon as the officers of Tau Beta Pi decide upon the proper procedure.

Following the initiation ceremonies, all active members, Dean Heald, Professor Peebles and Professor Emeritus Leigh of the faculty, and Mr. Ormberg and Mr. Trudelle of the alumni had dinner in the faculty grill. After dinner the group went to the Great Northern theater where they saw the W.P.A. production, "O Say Can You Sing." The evening closed with supper in a downtown restaurant.

organization is analogous to that of a company union. The U. A. W. A. stands for the growing policy of industrial unions, such as the C. I. O. To make the picture complete, the A. F. of L., although it is not an immediate party, should be included, since it stands for the crafts union, with the modification of coordination between all unions. These three types form the cornerstones and yet the stumbling blocks for all labor organization. Which is the best and to what degree cannot be decided here.

## Fraternity Notes

### THETA XI

Theta Xi will hold its annual between semester dance in Thorne Hall on McKinlock Campus of Northwestern University Saturday evening, January 23. Pat Lesters' orchestra will furnish the music for the affair.

The officers elected for the following semester are:

**Roy Joel Magnuson '37**, President  
**Arthur G. Dreis '37**, Vice-President  
**Joseph Sodaro '37**, Assistant Manager  
**Richard Ansel '38**, Treasurer  
**Eugene Imbur '37**, House Manager  
**Louis Kacel '37**, Corresponding Secretary

### RHO DELTA RHO

The year-end party held Friday, December 26, proved to be a great success, as did also the New Year's Eve party. The snowball fight and the "Blitzfield Follies" highlighted the frivolous New Year's celebration.

Congratulations to Brother Taradash on his initiation into Tau Beta Pi and Chi Epsilon, and to Brothers Bob Levy and Marty Holland on their initiation into Phi Lambda Upsilon. The swimming team, directed by Bud Ruckberg and Julian Grombacher, is now ready for the interfraternity meet.

### TRIANGLE

A number of the boys made good use of the U. of C. pool Thursday rehearsing for the coming Interfraternity swimming meet. Some of them look good and we have high

hopes.

The Triangle Alumni Association of Chicago is holding their annual banquet Tuesday, January 12. Many of us are planning to attend.

With hopes of the Interfraternity basketball tournament starting soon, we are scheduling some practice games.

### SIGMA ALPHA MU

With an active Christmas vacation gone, the fraters and pledges have returned for the last push" to finals. A dinner and theater party was held during the Christmas vacation and everybody had a grand time at "It Can't Happen Here."

Our swimming team has been practicing out at the U. of C. for the forthcoming Interfraternity and class swim meet tomorrow night. May the best team win. In line with swimming Jake Krumbin and Dave Rodkin have promised to spring a surprise splash party for the members. We are all anticipating a "ducking" time.

### PI KAPPA PHI

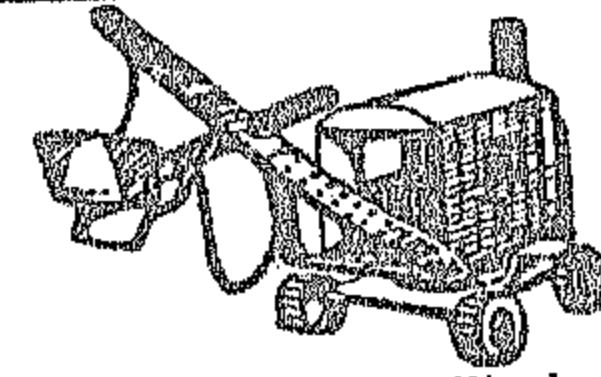
We take great pleasure in making known at this time the recent pledging of,

**Robert Johnson, Coop. '40**

Last Friday night Brother Dodge was present at the meeting of the Chicago Alumnus chapter. An alumnus Monte Carlo party will be held at our house February 20. It is another means by which alumni can get together and enjoy themselves.

Speaking of alumni, Joe Kubicka, an alumnus and chemical engineer paid us a visit recently. He is connected with the International Container Corporation.

## THE STEAM SHOVEL



Pete Morrison, familiarly known as "Toodles" in days gone by, has divulged to his more intimate friends the prime requisites of the future Mrs. P. M. She must drink, smoke, and be half as smart as he is. It'll be hard to find one that dumb, won't it?

If you dear, dear readers have noticed the superior quality of this issue, you can credit it to the stimulus of pleasant (comparatively) surroundings. The News has moved into its new futuristic offices, and are they classy!

*Eejay and Zazu wish to state that they had nothing whatsoever to do with this week's Slipstick. Send all complaints to the Sphinx pledges. They committed the column.*

If we can believe what almost every M.O.B.A. tells us, there were an awful lot of Armourites who stayed in and did schoolwork. However... we have our doubts. And

## Armour Is Inspected by Engineers' Council

In an attempt to raise professional status for engineers, the Engineers' Council for Professional Development continued its nationwide inspection of engineering institutes by visiting Armour on Wednesday, December 12. During the past year the council confined its trips to New England, but in order to provide for wider activity, districts throughout the United States have been formed. Armour was the first school in the surrounding district to be inspected.

The primary activity of the council is to approve engineering courses, and their inspection trips are made through practically all institutes in which engineering is taught. The inspection of any college is not compulsory but is requested by the various schools themselves. The council consists of a majority of the important engineering societies whose purpose is to better engineering education. An approved list of schools will be published after inspection of all institutions is completed.

the guy who saw a man turning off a fire hydrant and said "Say, mis'r don' win' up (hic) thiz street any tider, 's goin' aroun' fass 'nuf 's 'tis," looked very much like **Monty MacConnell**.

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