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President Warns Old South Its New Program Must Not Slur Social Economic Issue

Southeastern Development Board Hears Candid Opinion as to Its Usefulness—Eight States Now Included but Not Louisiana and 'Kingfish'

By a Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

WARM SPRINGS, Ga., Nov. 21—President Roosevelt warned the old South that it must not ignore social and humanitarian issues in its plans for economic co-ordination under the Southeastern Development Board, an eight-state group which was definitely formed by the visiting Governors from five states here last night.

An organization of governors rather than a group dominated by industrialists was the direct advice President Roosevelt gave to the state executives in their incipient plans for a southeastern body.

He was definitely against the formation of a "New England Council" for the South. There is good authority for thinking that the President believes the New England Council to be dominated by industrialists too heavily for its good.

His advice was followed by the governors, who failed to follow the New England pattern and stuck to a grouping of state executives alone, which will resemble the Rocky Mountain state regional organiza-

tion of governors. The President welcomes state associations.

Weapon for the Future

When a nation-wide network is complete, he can call six or eight governors to Washington who will represent the nation. This is an important new link between the states and the federation.

The Chief Executive also told the state executives to be prepared for speedy enactment of unemployment insurance legislation, a national model of which will soon be ready.

His reservation regarding social planning consisted of only a few phrases, but was carefully explained later to the newspaper correspondents. After receiving the injunction, the Governors held a meeting, issued a call for a session at Atlanta on Dec. 10 of the Governors of eight states, and decided on preliminary rules of organization.

Make-up of the Group

The group is to include Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, and Mississippi, Virginia, West Virginia, and Louisiana will be welcomed as "observers." Interests of each state will be represented by its Governor, and the board plans to meet quarterly, each time under chairmanship of the host-Governor, who acts for the period as liaison officer between the eight states.

Modeled directly upon the New England Council, the board is to co-ordinate general economy interests of the Southland and, if the President's advice is followed, is to promote social and humanitarian reform as well.

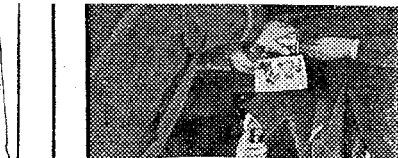
Its precise status is still shrouded in speculation, but in conception and intent it is more or less a conservative organization, interested in the established order, and not at all wedded to New Deal revolutions.

Shy of the "Kingfish"

The pointed omission of Louisiana in the setup shows that the Governors are not anxious to give the "Kingfish" any more worlds to conquer.

Of equal importance with his admonition to remember social and humanitarian factors was President Roosevelt's initiation of his unemployment insurance plans in the various states. He informed the Governors that model legislation covering this essential link in his plans for social security would soon be in their hands.

It will be submitted to the various state legislatures without delay, in the hope that some of the 40-odd states whose legislative bodies meet in January will be able to consider it at the forthcoming sessions. Many of these sessions have statutory limits, and it is anticipated that special



efforts and presumably his view of unemployment legislation is similarly caustic.

Today's program included talks with two Governors who stayed over to see the President separately, Gov. Dave Shultz of Florida and Governor-elect Bibb Graves of Alabama.

Additional Governors who attended yesterday's conference were Gov. I. C. Blackwood of South Carolina, Governor Talmadge, Governor-elect Olin D. Johnston of South Carolina, and Lieutenant Governor Graham of North Carolina. Other visitors included a large delegation from the National Association of State Auditors, who have been in session at Atlanta.

To the impressive group of state executives the President openly declared for social and humanitarian reform. Mere industrial co-operation, as envisaged in the SDB, he declared, was not enough.

To remind the old South of the need for social reform was a bold but consistent step for the President. It is no secret—either to New England textile mill owners, or to social thinkers on the university campuses of the South—that improvement in the status of "forgotten men" is a crying necessity in this area.

Room for Many Reforms

From share-croppers and tenant farmers in the cotton belt to low-wage workers in Carolina or Georgia mills, it is evident that many reforms can be effected. That is one of the aims of the National Administration; it was a major objective in formation of the TVA.

Thus the President was not satisfied with pleasant generalities as he talked with the Governors. In amiable, but significant, fashion he reminded them of their responsibility to ordinary people, who are today demanding social and humanitarian reform as never before.

The Governors are not unaware of the situation. Not far away the