

Mr. ROOSEVELT has declared to be absolutely essential to the necessary balancing of the Federal budget and to the maintenance of the credit of the United States unimpaired.

The President himself has greatly dared in taking such a heavy responsibility at the very beginning of his term. He must have been aware that he was hazarding party unity. He could not have failed to perceive the danger to his own prestige as party leader. But he proceeded on the knowledge that the hour demanded resolute action, and that if he did not call for it and execute it nobody would. When duty whispered low to Mr. ROOSEVELT, "Thou must," he did not hesitate to reply, "I can." It is a splendid appeal which he has made, not only to the convictions of his countrymen but to their admiration.

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### NOT DICTATORSHIP BUT LAW.

In asking Congress for authority and power to effect certain economies, President ROOSEVELT declared that he wished the thing done along Constitutional lines. The bill adopted by the House on Saturday was along those lines. Careful reading of its text will show that it did not set up the President as a Dictator. It merely empowered him to act as its agent in carrying out policies which it approved. All was done in good legislative fashion. It has steadily been objected that existing laws would prevent the President from cutting down allowances for veterans. But the bill, specifically referring to all these statutes, enacted that they are "hereby repealed." That obstacle is thus completely removed. In other cases relating to proposed reductions in the pay of Federal employes or officers, the bill declares that "all acts or parts of acts" inconsistent with the purpose in mind are "hereby suspended," or, in other instances, "repealed." It thus appears that Congress proceeded lawfully to unmake the laws which it had made, and which might hinder the President in cutting down governmental expenses as he desired.

Moreover, even under the general principle laid down by the bill, unlimited discretion was not given to the President. Congress took pains to define various classes of veterans upon whose claims the President must pass, and even set forth in detail "the minimum and "maximum monthly rate of pensions which may be paid for disability or death." It is evident that great care was taken to proceed legally and within the Constitution. If the case is ever taken into the courts, as some embittered veteran associations threaten to do, it is altogether probable that the Supreme Court would uphold the Constitutionality of what Congress has done. It did not delegate legislative power to Mr. ROOSEVELT. It merely authorized him to put into effect its own declaration of legislative intent. This particular act would seem to fall within the category of acts of Congress enabling the President, under carefully specified conditions, to fix tariff rates. Such legislation has been sustained by the Supreme Court. Probably the latest example of the kind would be also.

Unlike the emergency banking bill, the economy bill encountered much opposition in the House. Both parties split on the issue. The caucus of the Democrats was not able to muster a sufficiently large vote in favor of the bill to bind all the members. On the roll-call no fewer than 92 Democratic Representatives voted in the negative, along with 41 Republicans. But 69 Republicans voted with 197 Democrats to assure the President support by a majority of 128. The Senate has yet to act, and probably will develop a similar unwillingness on the part of some Senators to go all the way with the President. The flood of telegrams from angry veterans, and from some of their organizations, together with the activities and remonstrances of their lobby in Washington, have had their effect. But it remains unbelievable that Congress will refuse to agree to the measure which