

Bureaucracy

THE people of America have during the last decade or two, in some states more than in others, drifted so far in the direction of bureaucracy, that the effects are plainly discernible in many respects, but particularly in the constant accumulation of governmental grief, and the people are finding it more and more difficult to place the responsibility for misconduct and maladministration on the part of their bureaucratic officials.

Oregon is one of many states that are encumbered with too many Bureaus and Commissions — too many, even if our inhabitants numbered more than ten million people, let alone that we have not yet reached the million mark in population. This system has produced a veritable flood of "leaners" — people who live at the public pie-counter and feed on the taxpayers through Bureau or Commission appropriations. The potentialities for political scheming in nearly every Board and Commission are beyond comprehension. The purposes of these commissions are nearly always of secondary consideration by those who hold positions as commissioners, managers and directors of activities. That is at least the impression gained by the outsider whose public interest causes him to make a survey.

The legislative body now in session should not defer action. Pruning of Bureaus and Commissions should commence without delay. To begin with, many independently acting institutions of this sort should be consolidated and their power greatly reduced. Their appropriations should be cut to the core and in many instances denied.

Public Service must get a new interpretation and Public Office must no longer be considered as a "compensation for political services rendered" but as an institution for public good.

No one should be appointed to a public office unless he is qualified for the service and appreciates that PUBLIC service does not differ from any other service in point of personal value and performance.

The United AMERICAN

A Magazine of Good Citizenship
The Recognized Americanization Journal For Oregon and the
Pacific Northwest

Published Monthly By
The Northman Publishing Company
(Incorporated)

Officers

H. J. Langoe, President

B. G. Skulason, Sec-Treasurer

Phone Broadway 6600

Offices and Publishing House

Labbe Building, 227½ Washington Street, Portland, Oregon

H. J. LANGOE, Editor

Vol. 3 Continuous
Volume 21

January, 1925

Number 4

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Subscriptions, twelve issues, Two Dollars yearly; single copies, twenty cents. Remit by United States Money Order, Express Money Order or Check. In Canada and other foreign countries, belonging to the Postal Union, fifty cents additional should be added.

Back numbers, not over three months old, twenty-five cents; more than three months, One Dollar each.

Instructions for change of address should be sent two weeks in advance of mailing. Always give old address, as well as the new, and always write plainly.

The Editor will be glad to consider contributions; but a stamped and addressed envelope must be inclosed, if the return of unavailable manuscripts is desired.

Entered as Second Class Mail Matter in the Post Office at Portland, Oregon, under the Act of Congress of March Third, 1879.