

# U. S. Budget Problem Solved — Fewer Towels For Senators!

**\$7000 Worth of Mineral Water  
All Wet; Politicians Must Be  
Using It To Soften Up Beards**

By Elwood Ullman

I HAVE spent all my spare time this week trying to find ways and means whereby the Government can cut down expenses. After carefully studying the national balance sheet for 1935, I hit upon some ideas.

Take the U. S. Senate. Col. Edwin A. Halsey, its secretary, reports that total expenses last year amounted to \$3,296,852. The list starts off as follows:

Senate salaries	..... \$923,138.00
Vice President's salary	..... 14,437.00
Investigations	..... 256,000.00
Mineral water	..... 7,000.00
Laundering 5814 towels	..... 31.98
Two neckties for Vice President's chauffeur	..... 2.00

We might as well start off with the neckties. Now nobody is suggesting for one minute that the Vice President's chauffeur go around without a necktie (though this would, for once, focus a great deal of attention on the Vice President). The purchase was not only reasonable, but commendable. It was very sweet and thoughtful of the Senate to buy the two ties for the chauffeur, and I'm sure he appreciates it.

I have seen a picture of the chauffeur sitting up in the front seat of Mr. Garner's car and proudly sporting what seems to be one of the new cravats. Another man might resent wearing a dollar cravat while recognizing the need for Government economy, he might take the position that neckwear, especially his neckwear, is no item on which to start scrimping. He might hold out for \$2 ties and tell them to make up the difference by cutting that \$989,600,000 appropriation for the Postoffice Department.

But Mr. Garner's chauffeur seems to be perfectly well satisfied with this tie. The pattern is very striking, not to say demonstrative, and I'll bet it was the Committee on Indian Affairs that went shopping for it.

HOWEVER, I am not finding fault with the pattern. It's the price. If the committee is elated at having got by for \$2, I'd like to point out that if they had waited for the January clearance sales, the two ties could have been purchased for 80 cents apiece, a saving of 22 cents.

I realize that 22 cents is pretty small, but still it's something and shows the Government what can be done not only in buying ties

for Mr. Garner's chauffeur, but in handling everything else on that expense list. The little sums add up, you know, and by effecting small economies here and there, it will be possible to make a sizeable reduction in that three billion dollar deficit estimated for 1936.

Investigations will go on, I suppose, but I'd suggest that the committee watch their expenses a little closer, especially food bills. For instance, I can't see any point in spending \$1 for a table d'hote breakfast in a hotel's main dining-room when you can get one equally satisfying for less than half the amount in the coffee shop. What if the service isn't so fancy?

No. 3, for example, offers orange juice, hot cakes and coffee for 25 cents. No. 4, 35 cents, is orange juice, toast, coffee and two strips of bacon with one egg. I am just trying to show the Senators that they can dine handsomely without being extravagant. Mind you, I'm not suggesting that they stint themselves. I am the last person in the world that would want our Senators going around looking thin and emaciated.

Now let us take up that \$7000 item for mineral water. Can it be that the Senate is obsessed with the old bugaboo that tap water is contaminated by bacteria? If so, I would like to point out that we do not have scare-cats in the House of Representatives. At least, I do not find any claim from them for mineral water. They bend unflinchingly over drinking fountains.

OF COURSE, it is possible they are taking chances, just to save the \$7000, or whatever it would cost to supply the House with mineral water. But their strenuous life demands prime physical condition and proves, I think, that the danger is imaginary.

Getting back to the Senators, I wouldn't want to deprive them of their mineral water if it would make them nervous and unhappy. But \$7000 seems a lot for it, even allowing for the throat they get making speeches. I wonder if they're shaving with it, too? Or possibly they aren't getting the deposits back on the bottles.

The item that causes me the most concern, the one I am least able to understand, is "\$31.98 for laundering 5814 towels for the U. S. Senate." It appears not once on the list, but many times.

I would like Secretary Halsey to check this item again. Maybe



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some of the Navy's expenses got into his report by mistake. Maybe it should read, "for laundering 5814 towels for the Asiatic Fleet."

WITH 97 men in the Senate, including the Vice President, it means that each man has

for his personal use 59 and a fraction towels. (If they rounded out the total to 5820, it would make an even 60.) I cannot see the justification for all these towels. Suppose a Senator washes up four times a day, each time

using separate towels for his hands and face. (Note: I am not accusing him of taking fresh towels to shine his shoes with.) Even on this recklessly lavish basis, he would only use up eight towels a day, or 48 a week. He

**And More Care In Buying Ties  
For Vice-President's Chauffeur  
Might Give Taxpayers a Break**

would still be left with 11 towels.

Now I am not complaining about the Senators sprucing up. I am sure cleanliness should be encouraged in everyone. It is a fine reflection on this country when its Senators go around all day long with their faces bright and shiny and their ears clean. But they seem to be going overboard on it. I mean they are keeping too clean for the good of the budget.

After all, 5814 towels is a lot of burlap. Perhaps it is the Senate's way of keeping up cotton prices.

Just picture those 5814 towels stacked up to the ceiling, row on row, in the Senate washroom. And think of the dreadful consequences that would ensue if an earthquake

occurred and a couple of Senators got caught in an avalanche of towels. I doubt that rescue crews, digging furiously, could get to them inside of 48 hours.

ALL THOSE Senators would be floated by towels not be drowned by the overturned jugs of mineral water.

I hope our lawmakers will take this little treatise to heart. If I can only persuade them to cut the number of towels in half, to a mere 2907, they might get in the habit of halving everything.

And the next time the Army puts in a requisition for 300 bombing planes and the Navy demands a new super-dreadnaught, they will give the Army 150 bombing planes and the Navy a light cruiser and a mine sweeper.

## A FARMER WRITES AN "AD" ABOUT Double-Mellow OLD GOLDS!

Scio, New York  
November 16, 1935.

P. Lorillard Company, Inc.,  
119 West 40th Street,  
New York City, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I am an old man who knows what he likes. A hill farmer is a stubborn cuss, and when he takes to cigarettes when he's well gone by 60 years, he has good reasons for wanting those cigarettes. And for some time now I haven't touched any smoking but OLD GOLDS.

My brother's son got me on cigarettes, but the ones he gave me seemed too quick-burning. One day our general storekeeper stood me one of those Double-Mellow OLD GOLDS, made of prize crop tobaccos. And I had my first cigarette that burnt as slow and cool as my pipe, and that didn't leave a man's tongue stinging and biting like that other cigarette brand.

I've bought Double-Mellow OLD GOLDS ever since, and every pack has been the same. I know, because I'm blind, and we without eyes learn to taste and feel better than you who see.

Yours truly,  
Jerry Hurley

P.S. My 16 year old niece, Betty, has typed this for me, just as I told it to her. The snapshot was taken by Betty's father.



Snapshot of Jerry Hurley taken last Fall by his brother John. Jerry's farm is located on a mountainside, 8 miles from Wellsville, N. Y. (Post Office, Scio.)



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### Mystery Ships — No. 3 H. M. S. WASP FIGHTING VESSEL THAT VANISHED IN 1887

THE sensation of the autumn of 1887 was a wire from Hong Kong to the British Admiralty: "No trace of Wasp. Gunboats returned. Searched coasts of Cochin China and Hainan."

H. M. S. Wasp had vanished, to join that list of missing ships of which nothing is heard; another mystery of the sea.

She was a new type of gunboat.

some other more terrible fate overtake her? It is rare that a ship goes down without leaving bits of wreckage. Usually she goes to pieces first. When the bulk sinks, parts of the vessel are left afloat. The Wasp left nothing at all for rumors to feed upon.

Did she run ashore along the coast through mishandling? Was she then plundered by pirates,



Her armament was six guns, her engines 1000 horsepower, and she had a displacement of 670 tons—as sturdy a fighting vessel as ever was built, and sister ship to six other powerful gunboats built along the same lines.

Without mishap she had reached the Malay Peninsula, then sailed from Singapore for Shanghai—never to be seen again. The voyage should have taken 16 days, with a stop at Hong Kong. She never saw Hong Kong—or any other ship on her trip.

The unsolved mystery was—what happened to the Wasp? Did she founder in a typhoon? Did

who did away with the crew and destroyed the ship? The captain, it was later learned, did not like his command. He felt that his officers were inexperienced, and his own responsibility was too heavy.

Strangely, she was the second Wasp to be lost within a few years. The first went down off the west coast of Ireland in heavy weather because of "bad navigation on the part of the 'icers." In both cases seamen's p may have been at fault.

The H. M. S. Wasp is one of the few ironclad vessels in all maritime history to disappear without a trace.

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