

Every Community Is Concerned In Expanding Payroll Of Government

By BRUCE BLOSSAT

The idea is common that the great growth of the federal government is strictly a Washington affair. But the truth is it goes right to the country's roots in town and country.

Yet seldom does anybody bother to substantiate the fact with good figures. John Strohm, writing in the current issue of Country Gentleman, has just done so for one U.S. county in one field—agriculture.

He chose DeKalb County in northern Illinois as his test-tube area. To start off he asked 25 top farmers how many federal hired hands they thought were in their midst. Their average guess was 36. Strohm's investigation showed there were actually 173 part-time or full-time federal employees who either lived in DeKalb or visited it regularly.

In 1949 these 173 were paid from \$8 a day to \$53.50 a year to tell the county's 2500 farmers what they ought to do and what they could or could not do. Government services performed in DeKalb cost the U.S. \$86,065, not including the federal part of the salaries of 35 workers who live outside the county.

It took 65 people some 590 man-days to sign up DeKalb's farmers in the Agriculture department's conservation program, check their performance, tabulate results and pay out \$35.01 to each participant. But 96 percent of the farmers surveyed said they would have followed the prescribed practices even without the program and payments.

For offering technical advice to 95 farmers, 3.8 percent of those in the county, the soil conservation service, which is independent of the conservation payment agency, rolled up a bill of \$14,040 last year in DeKalb. That was \$147.68 apiece. Strohm found ample signs of the overlapping often pointed to in federal operations. There are two youth groups, whose members frequently belong to both organizations. Yet two-thirds of arm boys and girls are reached by neither.

Three, and in some cases five government agencies give farmers free guidance on crop rotation. Yet 100 DeKalb farmers have put up \$40 each to hire their own farm management consultant.

There was evidence, too, that the government isn't always in touch with local needs and conditions. Several farmers reported that alfalfa was the best soil-enriching crop that could be used in DeKalb, but said no conservation money would be paid for using it. The Agriculture Department insists they rotate with clover instead.

The statistics would be even more striking elsewhere. DeKalb isn't a typical county. It has fewer federal workers than most counties of similar size. Those it has do a better-than-average job. For example, one agency spent only 9 percent of its funds for administrative purposes last year. The average in Illinois was 14 percent and in some places 20 percent.

Still, the price paid for tenuous federal services looks high. Sooner or later the nation will have to take a hard look at this set-up and decide whether there may not be a sounder way, a way that

New Program To Boost Foreign Economy Starts

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON, April 6 — (AP) — The Truman administration is now reported to be well started on a plan for developing a new foreign economic program for the United States.

In line with Secretary of State Acheson's call for the use of "total diplomacy" in the cold war with Russia, officials said that a major objective of the program will be to increase substantially American imports of western European and other foreign goods.

The first step in carrying out the plan which was proposed to him by the State department was taken by the President last week in a news conference at Key West, Fla. He announced that Gordon Gray recently resigned secretary of the army, had been designated as his special assistant to work on a bi-partisan program to reduce the dollar gap between exports and imports.

A few hours later, Acheson announced here that he was sending Herbert Feis, an economist and member of the State department's policy planning staff, to western Europe "to study independently the situation there and its bearing on American foreign policy."

Feis' fact-finding survey apparently will be used by the planning staff in working out State department plans. These will cover the new steps which the United States may take to deal with the European situation when the present assistance under the Marshall plan ends in 1952.

Trade Poses Problem
In essence, the situation which the State department and the Economic Cooperation administration have foreseen for several months is this:

When the American aid to Western Europe under the Marshall plan comes to an end the European countries will still have a large gap between the dollars they can earn each year by selling goods and services to the United States and the dollars which they have to spend to buy the things they need.

There are three chief ways of meeting this gap: by lending or giving the European countries post-Marshall plan dollars, by increasing American imports of foreign goods, or by reducing the European purchases of American goods.

Rough estimates made by officials indicate that various European countries will need post-Marshall plan assistance of about \$1,000,000,000 a year for a few years provided the United States can raise its purchases of foreign goods by about \$3,000,000,000 a year above present levels. In addition Americans might have to sell somewhat less abroad.

Administration leaders foresee that the effort to raise imports will present a hot political issue when they finally reach the point of proposing it formally to Congress.

Atomic Research Must Stay Civilian, Educator Says

PORTLAND, April 6 — (AP) — Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven, here to raise funds for peace-time atomic energy use research, said that such a program must not come under government control or domination.

Dr. Ruthven, president of the University of Michigan, is seeking to raise \$6,500,000 for the university's "Phoenix" plan for research into a wide field.

The 10-year program, proposed a year ago, already is taking shape. Sixty projects have been blueprinted for research into the peaceful applications of atomic energy, based on humanitarian and utilitarian uses.

"We think it would be little short of disastrous should we give over direction of these researches to government," Ruthven said. "This

is one place where we must insist that our freedom to study and teach be not controlled."

Dr. Ruthven was scheduled to speak tonight at an Oregon State college dinner given by faculty members who are Michigan alumni.

TWO BURN TO DEATH

UKIAH, Calif., April 6 — (AP) — A woman and a little girl burned to death in a midnight fire on a ranch near Boonville.

The victims were Mrs. Linton Knight, 45, and her four-year-old niece, Carol Lynn Mark.

The little girl had been visiting at the Knight ranch with her parents, who live in Rodeo, Contra Costa county.

West Coast Lumber U. S. Favorite

PORTLAND, April 6 — (Special) — Biggest industrial story to come out of the Pacific Northwest in 1950 is the remarkable gains being chalked up by the West coast lumber industry. In 1949, West coast mills of western Washington and Oregon, shipped 733,000,000 more board feet of lumber than in 1948. Each year since the war, sales and shipments of Douglas fir, West coast hemlock, Sitka spruce and western red cedar have climbed higher.

Considerable credit for this outstanding increase in use of lumber from this region, by American homebuilders and industrial users, is given to the four-year-old national advertising and promotion campaign of the West Coast Lumbermen's association. Millions of

Americans now know about West coast lumber who had never heard of it before the war.

Lumber experts point out that national lumber consumption dropped off 4.1 billion feet for other producing regions of the nation in 1949 from 1948 highs, while West coast mills were experiencing their fourth straight year of increased production, sales and shipments.

The 733 million feet gain for 1949 was worth \$23,822,500 more in wages to loggers and mill employees. It took an additional 24,433 freight cars to haul this increased shipment of West coast lumber to eastern markets.

The American shrimp catch has increased 10 times in 50 years.

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Snakeblood Highball Popular With Japanese

TOKYO, April 6 — (AP) — The latest thing for that run-down, old-age feeling is a snakeblood highball.

"Many prominent Japanese including legislators, government officials, novelists, poets, actresses and—oops!—geishas are regular customers," a snakeblood salesman says.

Here's how you mix the drink: Take one live snake (gingerly, son), hand it by its tail and puncture the hide near the heart. With a gentle massaging motion, squeeze the blood into a glass. Add fruit juice or wine, garnish with snake heart and liver, and serve.

Customers under 40 years are

urged to limit themselves to one snakeball per month, those between 40 and 55 may have six and those over 60 may gorge as many as 20 snorts.

For those with that extra deep-down, run-down feeling, the viper is recommended. It's a double shot, as much as 40 grams of revitalizing snakejuice.

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White Star STRAINED TUNA for babies 17¢
Lg. Pkg. "No Rinse" SURF WASH. PWD. 24¢
1-lb. tin Playfair DOG FOOD 3 for 25¢
Quart jar Rosedale DILL PICKLES 29¢
46-oz. can Santa Paula ORANGE JUICE 39¢
46oz. can Vita-Pack GRAPEFRUIT JUICE 39¢
46-oz. can Tea Garden GRAPE JUICE 49¢
46-oz. can Old South TANGERINE JUICE 39¢
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5-lb. tin (Long John) Sunny Jim SYRUP 69¢

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