



By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.

In 1940 the ancient paneled-glass ceiling (and roof) structure in the house chamber showed signs of being ready to collapse—some of the artistic glass panels fell. The house of representatives immediately moved its sessions over to the ways and means committee room in the new house building. Workmen strengthened the weak ceiling by installing a massive labyrinth of steel beams and braces. So, since 1940, the house chamber has had something of the appearance of a machine shop.

Complete plans and specifications were prepared several years ago, but the work of rebuilding the chamber has been postponed from year to year. At last the contract has been awarded. Temporary work shops have been built on the capitol grounds and the contractor will begin work inside June 27. The house's sessions will then be held again in the ways and means committee room. This room is much smaller than the regular house room. Facilities there are not such as to be suitable for the meeting of 435 members. Sheer discomfort, plus Washington summer weather, may induce thoughts of an early adjournment.

Congress cannot adjourn until all appropriation bills have been acted upon. Thus far, the house has passed upon all of them, but the senate has yet not completed one of the regular departmental bills. It seems to me we shall have to be in session until mid-July at least in order to complete the annual appropriations.

The so-called Truman socialism program which he called us back to enact last summer has made practically no progress. The president told last year we could and should act on his demands in two weeks. However, we have been in session nearly five months now. The president's party has undisputed control of both houses

of congress, but "his" congress has not acted upon the president's requests for legislation. I believe this session will adjourn without doing very much in that direction.

The 80th congress (1947-48) passed legislation creating a commission for the purpose of studying and recommending re-organization of the executive branch of the government. The purpose was to effect greater economy and efficiency. The commission, known as the Hoover commission, set up a large and capable staff. It labored for nearly two years, and several weeks ago sent its first reports to congress. Much legislation is recommended which, if enacted, will cause the saving of billions of dollars. Thus far, although the report of the Hoover commission has been available for some time, there seems to be no genuine enthusiasm on the part of the leadership of this congress for speedy passage of the legislation it suggests. The senate has passed one of the bills, but no action has been taken by the house as yet.

Last week, however, we saw some definite evidence leading to an opinion that the administration will attempt to use, to the advantage of its own schemes, the public good-will which the unbiased, non-partisan work of the Hoover commission earned. The commission recommended the creation of a new department of public welfare into which would be placed many of the present functions of the federal security agency. As stated in the commission report, the plan has much merit. It does not contemplate including in such a department the department of public health and medical services.

On January 5, this year, before the reports of the Hoover commission were made public, the administration caused to be introduced H. R. 782 (Mr. Dawson, Dem., Ill.) which would simply constitute the present federal security agency, public health and all, a department of welfare. The majority leadership planned to bring this bill to the floor for action—under the pretext that it was legislation on the Hoover commission report. When we had learned of this plan, Republicans hurriedly mapped a campaign of vigorous opposition. We proposed to brand the bill a fraud masquerading as Hoover commission legislation which, in fact, it was not. At noon next day considera-

tion of the bill was postponed. How many more similar attempts may be made, nobody knows. I am sure there will be some.

### Martha Grayshel Cuts Ankle With Big Knife

In a freak accident Thursday afternoon, Martha Grayshel, in the act of cutting a sandwich at the Coffee Mill Cafe, let the big French knife slip.

Point downward, it fell, sticking into her leg just above the right ankle, and cutting to her heel. It required six stitches to close the wound.

### Curry Co. Story Is Published In Pilot

Judge Allen Boice Trust Fund Essay Contest, awarding \$200 in

U. S. Govt. Series G bonds, and approved by the county court, went to Burton Dignan of Gold Beach high school this year. The winning essay, which appears on page three of this issue, gives some early-day history of this county.

Information concerning competition in future contests may be obtained by writing Mrs. Georgia Fromm, county superintendent of schools, Gold Beach.

### Local News Items

T. S. Abbott, Greyhound agent at Crescent City, formerly here, was a business caller here last Friday morning. It is reported he received, Friday, word from the Mayo Clinic, that he must return there for treatment of bladder and kidney ailment.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Yokum re-

turned late last week from Grants Pass where they had spent several days on business.

Henry Kerr returned the middle of last week from Tacoma, where he had attended a re-union of the Scottish Rite Consistory. He had, the week before, attended Rotary convention at Spokane, Wash.

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