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ACKLEY SEEKS ADAMS' POST

In this issue of the Pilot are two news items of interest to the people of the seventeenth Legislative district, comprising Coos and Curry Counties.

After a long tenure as State Representative of this district, Fred Adams has retired. He said so in a letter to the Pilot late last week, stating that his health would not permit. In this office, which does not pay enough to cover expenses of the occupant, Mr. Adams leaves a conscientious and fine record of service. Friends certainly regret seeing him decide to retire.

Ed F. Ackley, local attorney, has filed for the vacancy left by Adams. He will be a candidate on the Republican ticket at the coming May primary. Various groups and organizations from Coos and Curry counties have met with Ackley, discussed this matter with him and have decided to support him for the office. To this the Pilot subscribes, since Southern Curry shall be greatly benefited by his presence at Salem.

Ackley is forthright, energetic and will go "all out" for any proposition he would represent. He is equipped in education and training to give his district the best possible legislation. Many people have told the Pilot he would get unlimited support in this campaign from all them and their friends.



By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.

Our great federal government has a wondrous and complicated system for getting ready to send to congress, via the president, its request for money—and the request must be made annually. In other words, the whole system functions each year. The president has just recently submitted his budget to congress. He says in his message that he must have \$85.4 billions to spend between July 1, 1952 and June 30, 1953. It is called the fiscal '53 budget.

The way the budget-making system works is something like this: Each government department or agency has what is generally called its budget officer. This person gathers up the figures which, when totaled, indi-

cate the amount of money needed (or at least wanted) by the department for the coming fiscal year. The figures are taken to the head of the department who looks them over and then decides just how much he will request. That figure does not, however, go to the president—it goes to the bureau of the budget. There some bright young men hold what they call hearings at which the departments explain why they need the amounts requested. Then the bureau of the budget prepares the figures to be submitted to the president and by him to the congress. He, and his White House staff, are the last word and the suggested budget may be, and often is, changed materially from the way it comes from the bureau, before it is brought to congress.

From time to time I have discussed budget-making with people from the executive departments. It seems to be quite a game which some of the old-fashioned departments haven't yet learned to play very skillfully. The general scheme seems to be to ask the budget officer for about twice what you hope to get. Then

the head of the agency will lop off ten to fifteen per cent. The bureau of the budget will peel it another thirty per cent, the congress will probably knock off another ten per cent and there you are—just what you hoped to get! One complaint I heard about the Bureau of the budget was rather more amusing than disturbing. It seems the young fellows who conduct the hearings and who, no doubt, have a great deal to do with the making of final figures, and very young—most of them under 30 and with little or no background (this is merely repeating what was told me by one who faces them). They sit and ask uninformed and inconsequential questions. That might not be so bad, said my informant, but, as he put it, the trouble is they change these youngsters every year so that the school-teaching has to be done all over again each time. I gather, from the sigh he heaved, that the procedure is something of a headache, and tiresome.

It generally takes congress quite a long time to catch up with the activities of our executive department officials. This is especially true with respect to those things we do overseas. For instance, I learned unofficially and off the record, from one of our people in France last fall, of the neat scheme the French government works to chisel a profit over and above our aid to them. One example—the French share of the cost of the headquarter's building for the NATO army is 18 per cent. However, the French government levies a tax of 20 per cent on the construction. See? In addition to saving her 18 per cent contribution, France came up with a profit of two per cent on the job. A neat trick if you can do it, and France has been doing it to us for years. Last week the congress took notice of this situation and a committee has issued a sharp and factual report on the subject. The state department says it is "working on the problem."

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