

President Urges Pay Increase and Unemployment Benefits For Civil Service Employees

From Good Government

In his message to Congress of September 6, 1945, President Truman recommended extension of unemployment compensation benefits to government employees, and salary increases for government employees, for Congress and for the Judiciary. He stated:

"The most important impediment to obtaining efficient administrative officials in the federal government has been the pitiful wage scale. During the war many able and experienced men were obtained for federal service on purely patriotic grounds. Some of these men who are unable to continue at the present scales would be willing to remain at adequate salaries.

"In most of the various classifications of federal employees, the wage scales, with few exceptions, are obsolete and inadequate. This is particularly true of the federal judiciary. I sincerely hope that the Congress will take early steps to provide decent wage scales for its members and for the executive and judicial branches of the government."

Senator Sheridan Downey of Cali-

fornia, Chairman of the Senate Civil Service Committee, has introduced a bill which would increase by twenty percent the salaries of some 1,500,000 white collar federal employees, Cabinet members and their assistants, members of boards and commissions whose salaries are fixed by Congress, and would increase by ten percent the salaries of legislative and judicial employees. Representative Donald L. O'Toole of New York has sponsored a bill providing for a 25 percent increase.

At the time the recently enacted pay act was under consideration last spring Senator Downey warned that the increases there provided would be inadequate when the federal work-week was reduced and over time was no longer required; and stated that he would then advocate a further increase in pay.

Senator Kenneth Wherry and Representative Howard H. Buffett, both of Nebraska, have introduced resolutions to set up a joint committee of the House and Senate to study the whole federal employee wage structure.

tems in states and municipalities where none now exist.

The development of our economic program during the post-war period must, so far as our public agencies are involved, be kept out of the hands of incompetent, self-seeking politicians and spoilsmen who may seek to use the transition period under guise of a "new emergency" as a pretext for exploiting our public services.

Our public services everywhere must be reorganized and readjusted so as to cope with the demands of modern economy. We can no longer tolerate

unnecessarily cumbersome methods and procedures in the administration of our public personnel systems.

Legislation has been passed increasing the Massachusetts state employee war bond bonus from 15 to 20 per cent with the minimum bonus established at \$300 and the maximum at \$420. Legislation was also passed providing for the appointment of a labor representative to the Civil Service Commission.

Sometimes we may learn more from a man's errors than from his virtues.

—Longfellow.