

Goals Reached

The following chapters have passed their initial 1950 goal in the "50% more in '50% Campaign:

Chapter	Present Membership
Bend No. 3	97
Coquille No. 10	63
Success No. 30	104
EOSH No. 52	205
Marion No. 18	300
Round-Up No. 24	50
Veterans' Affairs No. 50	42
State Prison No. 56	109

How does your chapter stand on making its goal for 1950?

Another Spoils Win In Louisiana

The campaign of the Louisiana Civil Service league to restore the merit system to Louisiana, carried on militantly ever since the repeal of the state civil service law by a spoils-minded legislature two years ago, has met a temporary setback through refusal of the legislature to approve a referendum for a merit system amendment to the state constitution.

In 1948 the revived Long machine, in spite of pre-election pledges to preserve the state civil service law and in spite of overwhelming public disapproval, jammed a repeal bill through the legislature. After less than two years of the spoils system, Governor Long announced in his message to the 1950 legislature that he wanted to restore the state merit system and asked officers of the Louisiana Civil Service league to help him in preparing a mutually satisfactory civil service bill.

Convinced by the 1948 experience that a self-operating constitutional provision, which could only be changed by the voters of Louisiana, was necessary if the merit system in the state government were to be permanent, the league persuaded the governor to support a constitutional amendment rather than a statute. It worked out with his representatives a proposal which it believed would insure non-

political civil service commissions for the future and would lay the framework for an effective, non-partisan civil service system.

The amendment provided that one of the five members of the new civil service commission should be an appointee of the governor alone, while the other four and also the director of personnel should be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the board of governors of the Louisiana Civil Service league. Appointments to future commissions would be made by the governor as follows: one by the governor in his discretion; one from three nominations by the state board of education; two from five nominations for each commissionership made by the presidents of the five principal colleges and universities in the state; and one from three nominations made by a nonpartisan state civic, business or professional organization designated by the governor with the advice and consent of the board of governors of the Louisiana Civil Service league. Any future appointments to the office of director of personnel would be made by the State Civil Service Commission.

In spite of a personal appeal by the governor to the house of representatives to adopt the referendum bill, and the absence of objections to the bill on its merits, a sufficient number of Long administration adherents in the house rebelled against the governor's leadership to upset the hope of getting the two-thirds majority required for adoption of a constitutional referendum. The pro-merit system forces were able to muster only 54 votes instead of the 67 required. The 46 representatives who voted against the amendment frankly admitted that they wanted to retain the spoils system in the state government.

Charles E. Dunbar, jr., known as "the father of the civil service system" in Louisiana, first chairman of the Louisiana Civil Service Commission, first president of the Louisiana Civil Service league, and member of the council of the National Civil Service league, held primary responsibility for preparation of the proposed amendment and its acceptance by the