

A Spoils System
Mutilated until scarcely recognizable for the original
cabinet cabinet form of government set-up proposed by Budget Di-
rector D . Hood and a group of Portland associates, a so-
called consolidation measure slid into the senate yesterday on skids greased by political log-rolling. As sponsors it car-
ried the names of 14 senators and 17 representatives and was aecomp. Of the 31 members reported to have signed it, it
doubtful if more than one or two had ever read the 21 page about.
roposal, the bill as finally introduced is nothing more nor less than a regrouping of administrative departments, boards and commissions, aside from purely political concessions that
have been made to strengthen its chances of enactment at To the political machine built up by George A. White adjutant general, and represented in the legislature
by a bloc of senators and representatives who consistently pose any encroachment upon militia is conceded exemptio from the act.
members who support of eastern Oregon and coast counbeen trying to scuttle the state highway commission-for its unds on eastern Oregon roads and to champion the cause o oll-free bridges on the coast-the highway commission is singled out almost alone for abolishment. This notwith-
standing that the highway commission has been outstanding shed an enviable record for efficiency and freedom from corruption or irregularities in the handling of some half bil In the place of the three-man commission there would be allocate funds and direct their expenditure.

It is unlikely that the plan as proposed would result any substantial economies in administrative expense, and
probable that it would involve the expenditure of mor money, particularly in salaries. It does not consolidate functions, but simply transfers them from one control to another. ing from $\$ 6,000$ a year to $\$ 7,500$, and transfers present devision of these additional executives
It increases the salary of the secretary of state, designated in the act as director of the department of state, $\$ 1,600$ a year. This, incidentally, is included in the bill over the re-
monstrances of the incumbent, Earl Snell. The politics of the proposal are further exhibited in the treatment accorded the state treasurer, who is arbitrarily nd a member of the board of control. board are also curtailed.

On the whole, it would be difficult to devise a more eff-
is political spoils system than is here contrived. By prescribing that the act shall go into effect at midnight, Juie or deputy officer. state agent, state employe," except elective hat time, the decks are automatically cleared ceaning by the appointive power. It is further provided that such an automatic clearing of the decks shall take place
every four years. Barring an unforseen revolt the proposal wil pass bot ministration pressure, and aided by the efforts of lobbyists around the brass rail who have a vital intorest in pending
bills. Several of them have already received their orders.

## A Futile Gesture

Iution for the submission of an amendment increasing the pay of legislators from $\$ 3$ a day for a 40 dayless of the fact that eight times in the past 27 ycars, the people have defeated, with emphatic majorities, other legislators. pay of legislator
ays. The second called measures called for $\$ 10$ a day for nual sessions and $\$ 350$ a year salaries. The third called for $\$ 5$ a day. The fourth called for a 50 day session at $\$ 6$ per
day, with members limited to the introduction of 4 bills in ession and committees to 3 he 40th day. The sixth offered the same proposal again. The seventh measure called for $\$ 10$ a day for 40 days. The eighth called for $\$ 500$ salaries per biennium.
It is absurd that legislators should only be paid $\$ 3$ a day, 75 years ago when the pay was fixed. But the legislators only have themselves to blame for the popular resentment against them, for they waste their time in inconsequentia and unnecessary legisiation accompanied by log-rolling and
bickering. Every session has to act on 800 or 900 bills, most of them uncalled for and every session could be completed in 40 days. And the lack of efficiency is popularly resented in the only way it can be, by refusai than anction
There has never been any lack of candidates for legislative posts, despite the inadequate wage. And there is noth-
ing to show that increased wages would in any way remedy ing to show that abuses that biennially reassert themselves. Longer ses-
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sions would simply mean more bills and increased racketeer| sions would simply mean m |
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| ing, as the public figures it. |

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## SUNDOWN



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Answers to Questions



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|  | 62 |  |  |  |  | 4 |  |  |  |  |  | ${ }^{66}$ |  |
| ${ }^{6}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 70 |  |  |  |
| 12 |  |  | ${ }^{73}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  | 74 |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{75}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 77 |  |  |  |

